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POLL RESULTS

Should the CNMI lease one of its Northern Islands to Japan, which plans to use it as dumping/recycling site for debris from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami?

Yes	80
No	174
No comment	8

Sunday, April 29, 2012

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MINA will be hosting its signature fundraising event, The Green Gala.

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A blind legal activist escapes house arrest and is under the protection of American officials.

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Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon say "I do"–again.

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Tension at DOC over Mafnas' reinstatement. PAGE 5

13.6 pct. cut in food stamp benefits

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Nutrition Assistance Program, which handles the food stamp program in the CNMI, will be reducing benefit levels by 13.6 percent starting tomorrow, May 1.

The reduction, which will be in effect until the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2012, is a result of the increase in the number of applicants who have become qualified and have to be accommodated under the program, said Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao.

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AG: Non-NMDs may sign petition to amend Article 12

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Non-profit group says legal opinion could boost signature drive

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham issued Thursday a legal opinion that says persons who are not of Northern Marianas descent may validly sign a popular initiative petition proposing to amend Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution. This legal opinion could entice more non-NMDs to sign a petition being circulated by the Citizens for Change of Article

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Oku Shigeharu, chairman of Japan Southwest Islands Security Institute, shows *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday samples of pozzolan he brought from Pagan during a trip there on Friday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

10-year Pagan lease, 100M metric tons of pozzolan eyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After a preliminary visit to Pagan on Friday, Japanese investors said they are looking at leasing for 10 to 15 years roughly 2,000 hectares of public land on the island to mine what they consider "best quality" pozzolan and to recycle pre-treated tsunami debris that they plan to bring in from Japan at the soonest possible time.

This early, however, some CNMI residents are expressing opposition to what they describe as the "desecration" of Pagan by turning it into a dumping ground. Others said there may be more to it than pozzolan mining and tsunami debris disposal and recycling.

The Japanese investors, aware of these sentiments, are trying to quell public opposition to their project.

The Japanese investors said the tsunami debris will be pre-treated, non-toxic, and non-radioactive, citing Japanese and international laws that prohibit shipment of highly toxic materials from one country to another. At least 80 percent of the tsunami debris will be recycled on

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IN MEMOR OF JULIAN LLAMADO
IN MEMORY OF RUFINA TAKAI PALACIOS
IN MEMOR OF DAVID ELEWEL
IN HONOR OF JULIE CONCEPCION-CRISOSTIMO

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Twelve-year-old Aysha Cabrera, left, and 11-year-old Trini Iguel, right, read the luminaries during the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer held at the Hopwood Jr. High School field last Friday and Saturday.

10th MMAC raises $111.47K and counting

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Months of exhausting effort and volunteer hours paid off early Saturday morning with the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer yielding a total of $111,468.60 in monetary and in-kind contributions—surpassing the target for the event's 10th anniversary—and the amount is expected to increase in the coming days.

The annual fundraising event, lasting from 6pm Friday to 6am the following day at the Hopwood Jr. High School field, drew thousands of spectators who came together for the fight against cancer in the CNMI.

Of the amount raised, $41,993.79 came from the 16 participating teams that held various fundraising activities before and during the event and were presented with certificates of recognition and awards under different categories.

The teams that raised the most money were Team Knights of Mount Carmel School for the "Napu" or school catego-

See MMAC on Page 4

Local

AG and health corp. agree on a new six-month contract for ICS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A new six-month contract with International Consulting Services will soon be signed, according to the Office of the Attorney General and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. after their meeting Friday with the owner of ICS.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham said in a statement yesterday that the corporation and ICS owner Dan Cochrane reached a "near-final" agreement Friday for support services in patient billing and collection.

Buckingham said the parties are working to address legal issues, which include a cap on start-up costs and removing the 10-percent administrative fee, reducing ICS' fee from a maximum of 11.5 percent to the industry standard, removing the 5 percent fee in cases where errors by CHC prevent collection, and providing for a six-month contract.

ICS was originally approved a six-year contract, to be paid at 11 percent commission in the first three years and 11.5 percent in the last three years. The Executive Branch criticized these rates as "too high" and "not within industry standards." The contract also became the subject of criticisms as it was sole-sourced and made outside the emergency declaration at the hospital.

Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* that the hospital needs ICS to provide a base financial support for the Commonwealth Health Center. "I am grateful that ICS has come back to the negotiating table and has provided the Commonwealth with more favorable terms. These should prove invaluable to not only those in the healthcare field but should reassure the public that we are making real progress in our continued delivery of health services," he said.

Cochrane spent hours Friday meeting with the corporation board in a closed-door session. "We are grateful that we will have the opportunity to show support to the people of the Commonwealth. Our company is thrilled to bring its extensive experience and skills to bear," said Cochrane.

ICS and the corporation expect the new six-month contract to be ready for final review and approval by parties and the OAG in the next several days.

"The devil is always in the details….but we are hopeful we can get this into language acceptable to all parties concerned," said Buckingham in a statement to the *Saipan Tribune*. is important to understand that ICS did not approach CHCC to solicit business. In fact, CHCC sought ICS out through their

Board clears ICS, CEO

Eight corporation board members signed Friday an official statement that clears both ICS and Babauta of alleged illegal billing contract after an hour-long executive session where they personally discussed the matter with Cochrane.

"It has recently been said in the press that ICS and in particular, Louis Kraml, has entered into an illegal contract with the CHCC. ICS has done nothing illegal and in fact were the only people willing to help CHCC when this small hospital was about to close leaving the 55,000 residents of Saipan without critical healthcare. It reputation and asked them if there was anything they could do to help," states part of the board statement.

It added that the issues surrounding the ICS contract are between the OAG and the CEO. "These issues surround the authority and manner under which the new corporation enters into contracts. These issues have now been resolved and the contract meets the specifications previously identified by the OAG. Consequently, the contract is in the process of being approved," the statement added.

The document was signed by Babauta, board members Joaquin Torres, Pedro Dela Cruz, Roy T. Rios, Anthony Aguon, Anthony Raho, Dr. Jeremy Richards, and corporation chief financial officer Alvaro Santos.

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Staff appeal for release of housing allowance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Unit heads and managers of various sections at the Commonwealth Health Center trooped Friday noon to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board to express their frustrations and fears about the fate of their housing allowance.

Of the nearly 30 employees that attended the meeting, five spoke about the ripple effect the delay in the release of the benefit has on the overall productivity of employees, ultimately lowering morale across all departments.

The housing allowance is given to employees hired from off-island to entice them to come to the CNMI. It is $600 a month for unmarried employees and $800 a month for those with families. These checks have been delayed since January due to financial crises at the public hospital.

A nurse stationed at the labor and delivery unit pointed out that pursuant to her contract with the corporation, the delay in the release of the housing allowance and its possible termination are clear violations of her employment contract. The nurse stressed that the corporation is already in breach of the contract. She said the housing allowance is part of her salary/compensation package that needs to be honored because it's a contractual obligation and an important component of the decision she made when she agreed to work in the CNMI.

Other unit managers told the board that patient care is being affected by the "serious low morale" and the issue must be immediately addressed to prevent further chaos in the delivery of healthcare services.

According to Nursing director Leticia Reyes, the fate of the housing allowance will be the determining factor for many nurses whether they will stay on or leave. Reyes said that the housing allowance forms 25 percent of the salary of most nurses. Reyes' department recently lost 17 nurses. She appealed to the board to carefully consider the nurses' concerns and situation when making any decision.

Other employees pointed out that eliminating the housing allowance will make it harder for the hospital to recruit and retain qualified personnel.

Still uncertain

Chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta assured that the corporation will honor its existing contract with employees but is uncertain as to when the next housing allowance will be issued due to the corporation's financial problems.

"As long as you have that existing [employment] contract with that commitment, we are going to live up to it until such time that contract has come to an end and a new contract is written," he told the crowd.

As Babauta outlined the many problems facing the hospital, several employees in attendance expressed willingness to meet the corporation halfway, even if it means reducing their housing allowance.

The board later voted to create an employee committee, to be joined by chief financial officer Alvaro Santos, tasked to formulate a "compromise plan" relating to the housing issue.

PCB remediation in I-Denni resumes after 3-week suspension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After a three-week suspension while waiting for additional funding, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' excavation of polychlorinated biphenyl- and lead-contaminated soil in I-Denni resumed on April 16.

The I-Denni pit was used by the U.S. military during and after World War II as a waste repository. It has been identified as a formerly used defense site, FUDS.

The volume of PCB- and lead-tainted soil so far excavated has already reached 2,542 cubic yards—some 323 percent higher than the original estimate of only up to 600 cubic yards.

PCB and lead are toxic chemicals associated with serious health and environmental concerns.

Joseph Bonfiglio, chief of public affairs at the Army Corps-Honolulu District, said the Army Corps has obtained additional funding that they believe will be enough to complete the remedial action work, expected to be completed on or about May 13, 2012.

"The Corps takes pride in providing a safe and clean environment. Our work is done to the highest standards of safety and we are committed to the health and safety of the public and our workers," Bonfiglio told *Saipan Tribune* via email.

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Health, said he gives credit to Army Corps for pushing for additional funding to resume the remediation.

"Army Corps is not stopping. I give them credit for that. We all know that even the federal government has financial problems but Army Corps is making sure they will be able to finish their I-Denni project to clean up the area of PCB and other contaminants," Iguel said.

The I-Denni project was originally budgeted for $603,543.73 but the volume of contaminated soil excavated was much higher than originally estimated and needed more funding.

The Army Corps is currently in contract negotiations and cannot disclose the amount of funding available to complete the Edoni Site remedial action work, Bonfiglio said.

Hawaii-based Wil-Chee Planning Inc. is the Army Corps' contractor for the project.

Of the 2,542 cubic yards of tainted soil excavated so far, 1,480 cubic yards are lead-contaminated, based on figures provided by Bonfiglio. The rest or 1,062 cubic yards are PCB-contaminated.

The highest level of PCB concentration detected in I-Denni remains at 6.1 milligrams per kilogram or parts per million. The cleanup level for PCB is 1.1 parts per million.

The highest lead concentration detected is 2,500 milligrams per kilogram.

PCB-contaminated soil are bound for Beatty, Nevada for proper disposal, while lead-tainted soil are brought to the Marpi landfill.

The I-Denni area is a future site of a planned homestead subdivision. But before the Department of Public Lands could proceed with the homestead project, it wants the site cleaned up.

The I-Denni project comes nine years after the completion of the $20 million PCB contamination cleanup in Tanapag in 2003 involving 40,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil.

Saipan was the site of heavy fighting between U.S. and Japanese forces during World War II. To this day, live ordnance and chemicals from the war are still being discovered in several areas of the island.

Kilili: NMI's Title I funding increases to $4M

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said Friday that federal Title I education funding for the Northern Marianas will increase in the coming school year to $4 million, up from $3.7 million last year. The U.S. Department of Education will release 25 percent of the funds on July 1 and the remaining 75 percent on Oct. 1.

"Educating our children is the key to success in their lives and to our prosperity in the Northern Marianas," Sablan said. "And thanks to the leadership of the Public School System, which has to apply for the annual grant, we now know our students will be receiving more federal funding to help with their education."

In fact, the funding for school year 2012-13 is likely to go up again with the October distribution. Friday's announcement is based on population and income information that will change when 2010 Census data is released later this summer. That change, expected to be in the Northern Marianas' favor, will be plugged into the Education Department's formula for funding the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, which share a set-aside of Title I money.

Until the 2010 Census data is available the department is required to use the 2000 Census numbers, which fail to reflect the realities in the Northern Marianas and the other insular areas. Population has dropped in all four territories. But income in the Northern Marianas has plunged, judging from the increases in eligibility for Medicaid and food stamps in recent years. Economic decline compared to the other insular areas is also revealed in the Northern Marianas Gross Domestic Product, which has fallen every year since 2005.

"We are not rich in oil or gold," says Sablan. "Our wealth is in our people. So we have to nurture and cultivate our human capability through education in order to grow in the future."

Title I, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to schools with significant populations of children from low-income families. ***(PR)***

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MMAC

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ry; Team Bodig for the "Pulan" or family category with about $15,000; Team NMPASI Posse for the non-profit/government category; and Team PIC for the corporate category.

The team with the most luminaries sold was another rookie team, Team Joeten Foundation/Marianas High School or "Joephins" which featured their cheerleading team during the team presentation.

Team #Free Dave, another team that debuted in this year's fundraiser, bagged the Most Laps for having run or walked the field track the most that night, and the Best Tent award for their red-colored tent dedicated to the group's family member and friend, Dave Ayuyu, who was recently diagnosed with testicular cancer.

The Best Baton award went to Team Bodig, which has been taking part in the MMAC event for a decade now and had the "Kung Fu" theme for this year. Their baton had three components: the bamboo, which represents longevity, strength, and flexibility just like what cancer patients demonstrate; the world, indicating the community being there for one another; and the Kung Fu fighters, which characterize a cancer patient who does not give up amid adversities in life.

Team Aschoscho, meanwhile, won the Most Spirit award in recognition of the team's enduring dynamism and energy throughout the 12-hour event.

Other participating teams were Teams Ahu, 302nd FRG, IT&E/Saipan Southern High School, Marriage Encounter, Saipan Health Clinic/St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Tan Holdings/Kagman High School, Ponape, and Take Care/Grace Christian Academy.

Opening ceremony, program

Friday's opening ceremony kicked off with the invocation from Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, followed by the recognition of cancer survivors dressed in violet MMAC shirts and collectively called "Team Courage."

Members of Team Courage were greeted with applause as they did the survivors' lap, which signaled the beginning of the relay. Some 60 survivors received medallions in recognition of their courage and strength.

Faga Warren, who recently had radiation treatment in the Philippines, recounted that she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in August 2011. Warren, 39, emphasized the importance of family and other support groups as cancer patients go through their ordeal.

"We have to love the patient, love whoever has cancer. We need support, we need the love. It was encouraging for me, having my friends, my family, and my church. They're really supporting me and they've given me strength," said Warren, who attended the event with her daughter and husband.

Juan Vicente Ehsa Blanco, who was diagnosed with leukemia in May 2007, said that he is "a living testament to the fact that cancer does not discriminate."

Blanco, the 8-year-old cancer survivor who got his wish to meet President Barack Obama in October 2010 through Make-A-Wish Foundation, narrated his story since that fateful day during his spiel on stage and said that he is taking his recovery "one step at a time" with the help of his family, friends, and doctors.

"It's been tough but I know I must get through this," he said. "Lord knows there is no sense in giving up now."

Blanco acknowledged everyone who helped MMAC, saying their support is "one step closer to defeating this dreaded disease."

Sen. Luis Crisostomo, who was diagnosed and treated for cancer on his palate, noted the importance of prevention and said that healthy living is one way to do it by having proper diet and exercise.

Community members were treated to fun activities and great food at the tents set up by participating teams, as well as live entertainment and exciting prizes that were raffled off, aired live at KKMP 1440 92-1.

The event was also highlighted by a luminary ceremony, wherein luminaries were lit in honor of those who have battled cancer, those who are still undergoing treatment, and those who have passed on due to cancer.

Overall MMAC committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves said the funds raised will help non-profit group Commonwealth Cancer Association in its programs that assist cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers, as well as its efforts to raise cancer education, awareness, and prevention within the CNMI.

She said they will bring together in a reception in May the people who have supported MMAC in the 10 years it has been in existence.

Attao-Toves said they look forward to seeing their supporters again in 2013 as they hold the 11th year of MMAC and urged the community to watch their diet and take care of one another.

PAGAN

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Pagan and brought back to Japan and other destinations, they added.

The tsunami debris will be coming from two prefectures in Japan—Miyagi and Iwate, said the Japanese investors. These are north of Fukushima where the damaged nuclear power plants are located, they said.

Oku Shigeharu, chairman of Japan Southwest Islands Security Institute, and one of those who visited Pagan on Friday, said that depending on the results of further study of Pagan, they are interested in mining all pozzolan deposits on the island for a period of 10 to 15 years.

He said they do not plan to lease the whole island but only about 2,000 hectares of it, including the pozzolan mining area and the site where tsunami debris will be disposed of and recycled.

The CNMI will generate revenue from the multimillion land lease, from royalty fees as a result of pozzolan mining, new jobs for local residents, and other multiplier impact on the economy, the investors said.

"In my personal opinion, maybe pozzolan [mining] can help save the CNMI economy," Shigeharu told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview on Saturday morning, through the help of Pagan (CNMI) Development Corp. treasurer/secretary Minoru Imai, who served as the Japanese-English translator.

There's at least 100 million metric tons of pozzolan on Pagan, said Pagan (CNMI) Development Corp. chair Juan Demapan, citing a previous study.

Isamu Tokuichi, chairman of the board of Kansai Oil Co. and president of New Energy Corp., led a six-member group of investors to the CNMI from Wednesday to Sunday to discuss with CNMI officials their plans for Pagan.

The Japanese investors shared more information about their plans on Pagan during an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday morning, but pointed out that the figures are just rough estimates at this time, pending more research and business planning.

As of now, Oku and Tokuichi said they do not have figures as to how much they are willing to invest on the Pagan project but reiterated that on equipment alone, they would need roughly $20 million.

There's also no telling at this time whether their Pagan project would require them to help develop a functioning seaport, a small airstrip, or power and water services on Pagan.

Oku showed samples of pozzolan he brought with him from a day trip to Pagan on Friday.

He said in his opinion, Pagan pozzolan is "best quality." But he said he will bring the samples to a Japanese research institute for laboratory analysis and evaluation.

Pozzolan is a siliceous volcanic ash used to produce hydraulic cement.

Oku said they will be back to the CNMI in three weeks, bringing with them engineers, scientists, and other experts to further study and assess Pagan.

The investors said it is costly to ship pozzolan from Pagan to Japan. One way to help offset the cost is to bring pre-treated tsunami waste from Japan to Pagan, and this way, the ship won't sail empty going to Pagan.

The Japanese government pays prefectures that want to take in debris from the March 2011 tsunami and some of these prefectures are contracting with private investors to dispose of these debris, said Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

Tenorio said the CNMI could generate more revenue by accepting tsunami debris to be disposed of and recycled on Pagan, than from royalty fee related to pozzolan mining.

ARTICLE 12

From Page 1

12 or CCART 12.

Article 12 of the NMI Constitution limits landownership in the CNMI only to persons of Northern Marianas descent or NMDs.

Efrain F. Camacho, chairman of CCART 12, said the intent for now is to gather at least 8,000 signatures just so they could put on the Nov. 6 ballot the question of whether to repeal or retain Article 12.

On Saturday, CCART 12 set up its first ever signature booth at a beach pavilion along Beach Road in Garapan where people could sign a petition to put the Article 12 question on the ballot. The group plans to continue the petition signing every Saturday morning at a pavilion across the JP Centre.

David Sablan, treasurer of CCART 12, said the AG opinion could prove helpful in encouraging more non-NMDs to sign the petition.

Many of those who have so far signed the Article 12 petition are NMDs, he added.

Sablan said signature booths or tables will be set up next Saturday in San Antonio, Tanapag, and Garapan.

"We are inviting everyone to sign the petition so that it can be placed on the ballot," he said.

Buckingham's three-page legal opinion responds to a question presented by Commonwealth Election Commission Robert A. Guerrero.

Guerrero's question was: "Can a person who is not of Northern Marianas descent validly sign—that is, will the Attorney General count his or her signature when determining whether the minimum signature requirements have been met—a popular initiative petition proposing to amend Article 12 of the Commonwealth Constitution?"

Buckingham's short answer was: "Yes, a person who is not of Northern Marianas descent may validly sign a popular initiative petition proposing to amend Article 12 of the Commonwealth Constitution; the Attorney General will count his or her signature provided that he or she is qualified and registered to vote in the Commonwealth."

Guerrero said last night that it was CCART 12's Camacho who sent him a question asking who will certify the signatures.

He said he then posed the question to the AG, who certifies the signatures. The response came in the form of a legal opinion.

Signatures, certification

The AG said that Section 4 of Article 18 provides that a popular initiative petition to propose a constitutional amendment "shall be signed by at least 50 percent of the persons qualified to vote in the Commonwealth and at least 25 percent of the persons qualified to vote in each senatorial district."

A person is qualified to vote if, on the date of the election, he or she is "18 years of age of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, is a resident of the Commonwealth and has resided in the Commonwealth for a period of time provided by law, is not serving a sentence for a felony, has not been found by a court to be of unsound mind, and is either a citizen or national of the United States."

"A person need not be of Northern Marianas descent to be qualified to vote; and thus, a person need not be of Northern Marianas descent to validly sign a petition proposing to amend Article 12," Buckingham said.

When a petition is submitted to the AG for certification, the AG will count the signature of a person if he or she meets the following criteria: (1) he or she is eligible to vote under the Constitution and applicable Commonwealth laws, and (2) he or she is properly registered to vote with the Commonwealth Election Commission on the date that he or she signs the petition.

"Whether a person is of Northern Marianas descent is not part of the criteria," Buckingham said. "Thus, the Attorney General will not consider whether a person is of Northern Marianas descent when determining whether to count a signature on a petition proposing to amend Article 12."

Campaign

CCART 12 has been campaigning for the repeal of Article 12.

Their ongoing signature campaign is to put the Article 12 question on the ballot—and it does not matter whether a person signing the petition is for or against the repeal of Article 12.

Camacho said if they do not succeed in getting the required number of signatures, they will try again in the general elections in 2014.

But if they gather enough signatures to put the question on the ballot, and voters ratify it on Nov. 6, Article 12, Sections 1 to 6 of the NMI Constitution will be repealed.

Camacho, Sablan and former representative Diego Benavente, one of the core members of the CCART 12, said the group decided to pursue a popular initiative because all of the legislative initiatives have not been approved by both chambers of the Legislature. ***(With Moneth Deposa)***

FOOD

From Page 1

Faisao said in an interview Friday that a review of the program's list of clients showed that it "has continuously increased and it went beyond our projection" in contrast to the $13 million it received for fiscal year 2012.

Although the agency has yet to finalize the exact figures, he said the number of eligible clients has already exceeded 10,000.

NAP last slashed food stamp benefits in May 2011 by 34.6 percent, also to accommodate the increasing number of beneficiaries, totaling 9,700 as of June 2011.

"In order to continue issuing this benefit without cutting off eligible applicants, we have to restructure our benefit level so that everybody still has a share of what we have, that which has been awarded to us by the [U.S. Department of Agriculture]," Faisao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Faisao emphasized that the 13.6-percent cut "would be fairly applied to all qualified applicants."

"The Fitial-Inos administration wholeheartedly believes that anybody who is qualified should be given the opportunity to receive this benefit but they should understand that the funding is very meager and that's the reason why we have to restructure our benefit level," he added.

When asked for comment, press secretary Angel A. Demapan said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked Faisao to seek available funding options following the unexpected increase in food stamp recipients by communicating with the granting agency.

"This latest increase in the number of recipients is worrisome because it reflects an increased dependency on welfare programs and lesser interest in workforce development," he added.

When asked how the reduction would impact families who already endure rising fuel prices, utilities, and other basic necessities, Faisao replied, "It gives them less benefits. But I believe it's a time of reckoning. Nations all around the world have been affected by the slow economic recovery."

In the meantime, Faisao said that DCCA and NAP are working on setting up "satellite or outreach offices" to serve food stamp beneficiaries who have transportation problems.

These satellite offices, which will be conducted twice a week, will be located at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan; the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to cover residents from Oleai, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, and San Antonio; and at the Kagman Community Center.

Faisao said the schedule of the satellite offices will be finalized in May and will be announced soon.

"We will set up those satellite offices to work with our clients in reviewing the current applications and we want to inform them about the implementation of the reduction," he added.

For more information, call 664-2571.

Tension at DOC over Mafnas' reinstatement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While Department of Public Safety personnel are happy over the ouster of Ramon C. Mafnas as DPS chief, it is still not clear what specific action the staff at the Department of Corrections will be initiating today, Monday, the day Mafnas is expected to resume his previous post as DOC commissioner.

Some Corrections personnel, who asked not to be identified, said Friday that one of their plans is to proceed to the Office of the Governor today to express their strong objection to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's decision to reinstate Mafnas as Corrections chief.

A Corrections staff said yesterday that they are still hoping that Fitial will reconsider and rescind his directive. The Corrections staff added that Mafnas should not accept the position and realize that he is also not welcome at the department.

A Corrections official on Friday expressed disappointment with Mafnas' reinstatement at the department.

"We at [Corrections] were the first victims of Mafnas. We don't like the way he treated us here," the official said, adding that many Corrections personnel just kept quiet in fear of retaliation.

Mafnas was first appointed Corrections commissioner and subsequently tapped as DPS commissioner.

A petition for Mafnas' removal from DPS spearheaded by Police Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero prompted Fitial to put Mafnas on administrative leave.

On Thursday, the governor removed Mafnas as DPS commissioner but retained him as DOC commissioner.

Standoff over CHC bills a result of 'oversight, misunderstanding'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A seeming standoff between the House and Senate over the supposed simultaneous passage of both an $11.58 million line of credit bill for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and a bill changing the CHC board of trustees from being just "advisory" to a "governing" one might just be an "oversight" or "misunderstanding" and not because both parties are "playing politics," lawmakers said Friday.

House and Senate members said neither chamber is deliberately stalling the passage of both bills.

The House passed Thursday morning a compromise version of HB 17-278 or the line of credit bill, not Senate Bill 17-80, which changes the CHC board to a governing one.

The conferees from the House and Senate agreed to "simultaneously" pass the two bills.

Upon learning of the House's inaction on S.B. 17-80, the Senate decided to cancel its session "until further notice" or until the House also passes S.B. 17-80.

"It's just oversight, it's not intentional," conference committee co-chair Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* Friday.

Iguel didn't work for a few days because he was not feeling well so his Committee on Health was unable to report out SB 17-80 for action by the full House.

"It was an unintended result. I immediately pre-filed the report when I got back to work on Thursday," he added.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) also said it might have been just a misunderstanding and not intentional. "We are not playing politics. It was just miscommunication. Besides, we were focused on giving CHC access to money for their continued operations that we forgot about the other bill that the conference committee agreed to pass," Basa said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) called for the cancellation of its Thursday afternoon session "until further notice" at the request of the Senate conferees led by co-chair Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Torres and Manglona cited Section C of the Conference Committee Report, which states that "Sections 3-8 of HB 17-78, HD2, SS1 were deleted from the bill because the conferees agreed that the provisions changing the advisory board of trustees of the healthcare corp. to a governing board of trustees shall be put in a standalone bill and passed simultaneously with this bill by both houses at the next session of each respective house."

"The Senate will schedule its next session upon such time that the House of Representatives passes and transmits to the Senate the bill that it agreed to pass during the Conference Committee regarding HB 17-278," Manglona said in a memo to senators about the session cancellation.

House members interviewed Friday said that a House session will be held this week.

Friday afternoon, the Senate president called for a session on Rota tomorrow, May 1, at 11am. The agenda reflects HB 17-278, but not SB 17-80 because it has yet to pass the House.

The compromise version of HB 17-278, originally introduced by Basa, allows MPLT to provide CHC with up to $11.58 million line of credit to prevent a shutdown. The conferees agreed to secure future interest from MPLT to assist CHC.

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Chamber offers Article 12 luncheon forum

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its May general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle Ballroom this Wednesday, May 2, 2012, from 11:30am to 1pm. Luncheon service begins at 11:30am, with the meeting commencing at noon.

Guest speakers for the May meeting will be from the pro-abolition group, the non-profit Citizens for Change of Article 12. Speaking will be individual charter members Vince Seman, Alex Sablan, and Efrain Camacho.

The Chamber will also present Kay Delafield from the CNMI Water Task Force, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., who will discuss the Saipan Lower Base Industrial Park Waterline and Sewer System Improvement Project.

"[The Chamber] has been supportive of the abolishment of Article 12 for purely economic reasons," said Chamber president Douglas Brennan. "If there's not enough evidence establishing the reasons to make this change now, I don't know what else we need to witness."

The Chamber has submitted legislative comments and position papers to both the CNMI House and Senate, as the CNMI economy continues its tailspin and the inability of outside investment is hindered by existing land alienation laws. Extensive research with financial institutions indicates Article 12 restrictions have severely impacted local landowners attempting to secure loans and mortgages, as well as investment from outside the CNMI, as land cannot be held in fee simple by anyone of non-NMD descent.

The Chamber has extended the same opportunity to discuss reasons why Article 12 should be retained to those opposing its abolition. SCC has offered time at any Chamber general membership meeting to both proponents and opponents for the abolition of Article 12.

The Chamber reminds its members and the public that the petitions being circulated, one of which is available for signature at the Chamber offices in Garapan, are for purposes of placing the initiative, "To propose a constitutional amendment for the people of the NMI to vote to repeal, or retain, Article 12" on the November ballot.

The Chamber will receive reservations for the May 2 luncheon meeting at 233-7150, or through coordinator@saipan-chamber.com. Lunch is $20 for Chamber members, and $30 for guests and the public. ***(SCC)***

Man allegedly violates probation

Federal agents arrested last week a probationer who allegedly violated several violations of his probation conditions.

Francisco Nakatsukasa Basa was taken to the U.S. District Court Thursday afternoon for his initial appearance.

Basa, who appeared with court-appointed counsel F. Matthew Smith, did not object to being placed in custody pending the revocation hearing of his probation. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government at the hearing.

Basa's arraignment will be on May 14, 2012, at 2:30pm.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an arrest warrant for Basa at the request of the U.S. Probation Office.

According to U.S. Probation, Basa failed to refrain from the illegal use of a controlled substance on four occasions since July last year to January this year. He also allegedly failed to show up for drug testing in four different dates in 2011 and eight other dates in 2012. Basa also allegedly failed to participate in a substance abuse treatment program.

In 2006, the federal court sentenced Basa to four years and six months in prison for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams of "ice." He was placed on five years of supervised probation after serving the prison term. In May 2010, Basa was arrested for choking and punching his common-law wife. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Join us for an elegant evening for a worthy cause
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance presents
An event to raise funds for the protection and preservation
of the CNMI's beautiful and fragile environment
The Green Gala
Friday 5.18.2012 | 6pm-10pm | Hibiscus Hall at Fiesta Resort | Cocktail Attire | $50
Tickets are sold at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai next to DEQ. For inquiries, call 233-REEF.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

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/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

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/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands • 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2012-2013

On March 23, 2012, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. **The CNMI WIC Program will be implementing the new guidelines effective May 1, 2012.** So please check to see if you now qualify.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective from May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013)

48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	$20,665	$1,723	$862	$795	$398
2	27,991	2,333	1,167	1,077	539
3	35,317	2,944	1,472	1,359	680
4	42,643	3,554	1,777	1,641	821
5	49,969	4,165	2,083	1,922	961
6	57,295	4,775	2,388	2,204	1,102
7	64,621	5,386	2,693	2,486	1,243
8	71,947	5,996	2,998	2,768	1,384
Each Add'l Member Add	+7,326	+611	+306	+282	+141

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

CUC continues smoke testing of sewer lines

» Areas covered include Garapan, Southern Garapan, Chalan Kiya, Susupe

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be smoke-testing the sanitary sewer lines in Garapan, Southern Garapan, Chalan Kiya, and Susupe beginning today, April 30, through Friday, May 18. The testing, which involves forcing smoke into the sanitary sewer lines, will check for leaks, breaks, and defects in the system.

The smoke is odorless, creates no fire hazard, and will not enter one's home or business unless you have defective plumbing or dried-up sink traps or floor drains. The smoke test should only affect your property for approximately 15 minutes. The smoke used for this test is manufactured strictly for this purpose, leaves no residuals or stains, and has no effect on plants and animals. Direct contact with the smoke may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people.

If people in your building suffer from a heart condition, asthma, emphysema or some other respiratory condition and are planning to stay in the building during testing, notify the CUC Wastewater Operations at (670) 322-5032 (or 322-5033) to discuss your specific case.

Prior to testing, pour two gallons of water in any seldom-used sinks and floor drains to prevent sewer gases, smoke, and odors from entering the premises. If smoke does enter your home during testing, immediately remove yourself from the building, notify the crews that are conducting the test or call CUC. Again, if smoke enters your home, it is an indication of a plumbing defect, so you should also notify a plumber. The correction of any defect is the responsibility of the property owner.

Smoke that you will see coming from the vent stacks on houses is normal. However, smoke coming from holes in the ground is not normal and is considered a defect. All such defects will be logged. CUC will then contact the property owners if a defect is located on private property.

This smoke testing is part of the CUC's continuing effort to provide a safe, economical, efficient, and environmentally sound sewer system. The smoke testing procedure has been recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an effective means of identifying problem areas in the sewer system. Eliminating system defects and illegal connections will help the community remain in compliance with the federal legislation regarding sewer systems maintenance and sanitary sewer overflows.

Contact CUC Wastewater Operations at (670) 322-5032 (or 322-5033) with any questions or concerns. ***(CUC)***

MINA introduces The Green Gala fundraiser

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance board vice chair Frankie Eliptico, second left, gestures as he introduces the other board members of the community-based, non-profit organization during a media briefing at their office in Gualo Rai last Friday. Also in photo are, from left to right, Fran Castro, chair Herminia Fusco, Ron Smith, and executive director Sam Sablan. MINA will host its signature fundraising event, The Green Gala, on May 18, Friday, from 6pm to 10pm at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and conserving the Commonwealth's natural resources, will be hosting what is already being planned as its signature annual fundraising event.

The Green Gala is slated for May 18, Friday, from 6pm to 10pm at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. Cocktail attire is required.

Fran Castro, event committee chair, said in a news briefing Friday that The Green Gala will feature live entertainment provided by a local band, a delectable buffet, and a wide selection of drinks for guests to enjoy.

Castro said The Green Gala will be highlighted by Trash'n Fashion Show featuring outfits made of recyclable materials and a silent auction of artwork and other items donated by a number of individual and corporate sponsors for the event.

Proceeds from the silent auction and the event in general will go to MINA, which it will use to continue its programs.

"It will be a great party so we encourage you to come out, dress up, and enjoy the night with MINA," said Castro.

Tickets to the event cost $50 each and are available from MINA board members or at the group's office on the ground floor of the Gualo Rai Center located between the Division of Environmental Quality and J's Restaurant along Middle Road.

"I know it's a steep price for some but what you'll get in return is a memorable evening," said MINA board vice chair Frankie Eliptico, who added that giveaways will be provided guests.

According to Eliptico, The Green Gala is an opportunity not just to highlight the group's projects but also for the community "to come together and rally around supporting the environment and protecting the environment."

As a non-profit organization, MINA relies on "very critical" funds to sustain its programs, Eliptico said. While the group obtains grants from federal agencies, it also relies on the generosity of individuals and businesses as well as fundraising activities.

"This will be a very sophisticated event and we're inviting everyone to participate by becoming a sponsor or purchasing a ticket," he added.

Sponsors that have already expressed support for the event include Tan Holdings, Pacific Trading Co., Joeten Enterprises, Fiesta Resort & Spa, *Saipan Tribune*, Shirley's, DFS, Hyatt Regency, Athlete's Foot, Delta Air Lines, *Marianas Variety*, Joe Weaver, Monika's Gallery, Greg Elliott, Boarderline, Angil Design, and Kurt Baumgartner.

Eliptico said that The Green Gala is an "important event" for the community to remember that there are many individuals and organizations involved in protecting the environment and other jurisdictions in the region are already looking at "possibly" emulating this fundraiser.

"Hopefully, this is the night we'll all get together and put the environment at the forefront of all the issues that we face here in the CNMI," he said. "After all, we are surrounded by a vast body of water where a lot of us make a living from, as well as the natural resources that we need to protect."

MINA was established in 2005 and has collaborated with government agencies and private companies for its numerous programs, including the Tasi Watch, Adopt-A-Bin, shark campaign, and enhancement of the Mañagaha experience.

For more information, call 233-REEF (7333).

FOA presents last play of season, 'Sleuth'

The Friends of the Art's last play of the year is coming up!

The Anthony Shaffer mystery, *Sleuth*, will be performed on May 4 and 5, starting at 7pm, and on May 6, with a matinee performance starting at 3pm. These dates are one week later than originally planned and as announced in the season tickets.

The play will take place at the Dolphin Theater, Building T, at Marianas High School. The two-actor play is an entertaining mystery pitting Leo Goode, a veteran FOA performer and singer, against Bernard Rivera, who last performed with FOA in 2006 in *La Cage aux Folles*.

Leo played El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, performed in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, as Athos in *The Three Musketeers* and, most recently, quieted the audience singing Gethsemane from *Jesus Christ Superstar* in FOA's *2011 Andrew Lloyd Weber: Beyond Memories* production, as well as performing in several other programs.

Ticket prices remain at $12 for FOA adult members, $15 for adult non-members and $8 for students and children over four years of age. Season ticket holders, of course, are prepaid.

Sleuth was awarded the Tony Award for Best Play and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Performance with Anthony Quayle and Keith Baxter from the original production cast. The play was adapted for film in 1972, starring Laurence Olivier and Michael Caine, and released again in 2007, starring Michael Caine and Jude Law in the role of Milo Tindle, originally played by Caine in the 1972 version.

Contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com for tickets. ***(FOA)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 30, 1999

$24 million CIP projects underway

Administration officials handed over yesterday to the Legislature a new measure listing down specific capital improvement projects worth more than $24 million, including items previously vetoed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in an apparent move to please lawmakers. The proposed legislation, sponsored by Rep. Karl T. Reyes, is expected to pass the House of Representatives today during an emergency session called specifically to vote on the bill. A supplemental to an initial CIP measure signed early this month into Public Law 11-78 by the governor, the proposal will increase the total appropriation by more than $1 million from the $22.9 million earlier allocated by the Legislature.

CJPA: $1 M available for law enforcement, justice system programs

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency has announced the availability of over $1 million in federal grants intended to strengthen various programs in fighting crimes, prevention of juvenile delinquency and improvement of the justice system. A portion of the federal money was set aside for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program, with initial funding amounting to $104,000 and supplemental endowment of at least $97,000. This program, designed at providing education, training, recreation and other rehabilitation services to youths in order to curb juvenile delinquency, can be availed by local education and law enforcement agencies, as well as private, non-profit and community-based organizations.

Apr. 30, 2001

McPhetres bats for representation in Congress

The Commonwealth is losing federal support due to lack of proper representation and the absence of effective mechanisms that will help secure grants and other opportunities for CNMI residents. Citing the need to be properly represented in the US Congress, Democratic Party's Washington Resident Representative bet Agnes McPhetres laid down a two-point proposal to effectively promote the CNMI to the US. During a fundraising dinner Friday night at the Island Castle, Ms. McPhetres said the Office of the Resident Representative should establish internships for CNMI college students within federal agencies using existing funds and federal grants.

New law gives BOR power to restructure NMC tuition

A Senate initiative that pushed for flexibility on the part of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents to restructure student tuition and fees saw passage last week. The legislation, which gives the policymaking body discretion over the rate of tuition and other fees to be offered to students, is expected to increase NMC's foreign student enrollment. Governor Pedro P. Tenorio inked his approval to the amended version of Postsecondary Education Act of 2000, granting BOR the authority to establish tuition and fee rates for resident and nonresident students reflective of the economic conditions in the Commonwealth.

Apr. 30, 2002

AGO awaiting Babauta's action on salary cap issue

As far as the Attorney General's Office is concerned, the ball is now in the administration's court, insofar as acting on the Office of the Public Auditor's report that some requirements were not met in giving 18 employees salaries in excess of the ceiling set by law. Attorney General Robert Torres said the OPA report recommends corrective legislation that would address conflicting statutes on personnel matter but the fact is his office is required to enforce the present laws on the books. "My purview at this point is awaiting what action will be taken by the Executive Branch or the Legislative Branch with respect to the certification and sanctioning and the scope of that action, whether it includes employees from 1998, since the enactment of Public Law 11-41, up to the current 18 employees identified in this new administration," he said.

NMI gets $83K grant for reefs management

Gov. Juan N. Babauta officially signed the grant documents yesterday that would enable the Commonwealth to receive $83,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the coral reef program of the Coastal Resources Management Office. Babauta said the additional funding was approved and awarded partly in recognition of the outstanding progress that the CNMI has made in the past several months in developing the Coral Reef Initiative, a coral reef management program.

Sablan elected chair of REL Pacific board

DENVER (MacREL)—The board of directors for the Pacific Region's new Regional Education Laboratory, administered by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, McREL, held its first meeting on March 29-30 in Honolulu, Hawaii, at McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds.

In addition to discussing the board's role and goals in improving educational opportunities and achievement for all students in the Pacific Region, members also elected their first chair and chair-elect.

The new chair is Rita Sablan, Ph.D., commissioner of education for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Public School System. Rufino Mauricio, Ph.D., secretary of education of the Federated States of Micronesia, was chosen as chair-elect.

Sablan has served as in her current role since 2008. Her 34-year career in education on Saipan includes roles as a teacher, principal, and associate commissioner for instructional services. Of her REL Pacific role she said, "I am honored to serve as the first chair and look forward to the working collaboratively with the region's chiefs and their school districts to make a difference."

Mauricio, who is an anthropologist and previously served as director of the National Archives for FSM, brings to the board deep understanding of Pacific cultures as well as the needs and perspectives of the region's students and their families. "I am optimistic that board members can work together to improve the learning of students everywhere, particularly for those in the Pacific Region, while honoring the importance of their cultural identity," Mauricio said.

Other members of the REL Pacific board include:

- Gardenia Aisek, director of Chuuk Department of Education
- Lyndon Cornelius, secretary of education, Kosrae, FSM
- Masa-aki Emesiochl, minister of education, Republic of Palau
- Henry Falan, speaker, Chuuk Senate, FSM
- Jacinta Galea'i, acting director designee, American Samoa Department of Education
- Hilda Heine, minister of education, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Kathryn Matayoshi, superintendent, HawaiÔi Department of Education
- Tammi Oyadomari-Chun, HawaiÔi education policy advisor
- Vincent Parren, director of education, Yap, FSM
- Taling Taitano, acting superintendent, Guam Department of Education
- Asterio Takesy, ambassador to the United States, FSM
- Patrick Tellei, president, Palau Community College
- Joseph Villazon, director of education, Pohnpei, FSM

16 complete The Bridge Project's first session

» New session sign up on May 9

There are 16 newly prepared and motivated U.S. workers ready to be hired. The Bridge Project, a program to help U.S. eligible residents become better prepared for entering the workforce, has just completed its first class.

Sixteen of the 25 who originally signed up completed the course curriculum. Two have already secured jobs, with four more proceeding with interview with various employers.

CNMI Delegate Greg Kilili C. Sablan helped award the participants with their certificates of completion. Sablan was instrumental in getting the project its initial funding. "Without the congressman's support this effort may still been on the back burner, but his confidence and commitment help make this a reality," said Jim Arenovski, director of the Bridge Project.

Participants ranged in age from 19 through over 50 and participated in classes in customer service, workplace safety, workplace ethics, and communications as well as how to prepare a complete application.

Each individual worked with Bridge Project staff in developing a resume as well as face-to-face practice interview.

"We are very happy to see these 16 complete the courses. Our clients started off very shy but through the weeks we were able to see a number of them develop better confidence in themselves and express to other about their experiences. Although it was disappointing to see people drop out, the ones who stuck it out are finding new opportunities and employment outlook," Arenovski said. "A successful job search requires people set some goals, understand their strengths and weaknesses and be a confident interviewee. These skills (like all skills) only get better with practice. Those who are frustrated that they are not getting hired are going up against two main issues; 1) there are not many jobs available and 2) those limited jobs are being filled with those who are best prepared and have a great interview. Those expecting to get a job with an incomplete application or resume and have poor interviewing skill, are setting themselves up for disappointment…but the Bridge Project can help."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 16 new graduates of the Bridge Project program raise their hands in victory in this picture taken with Jim Arenovski, director of the Bridge Project and CNMI Delegate Greg Kilili C. Sablan.

For those interested in participating, the next sign up and open house will be May 9 at 6pm at Room 305 in the Marianas Business Plaza. Classes are limited to 25 people. The program is eligible to U.S. eligible workers only and is intended for unemployed residents. For more information contact Arenovski at 287-7037.

The Bridge Project is funded by grants from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and the CNMI Department of Commerce. ***(PR)***

BoG's 'Money Island' wins financial literacy award

» 'Best Electronic Instructional Game of the Year' available at www.bankofguam.com

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has received word that Money Island, offered by the bank on its website, has won an "Excellence in Financial Literacy Education" award for instructional game of the year, electronic. The Institute for Financial Literacy (www.FinancialLit.org) a nonprofit whose mission is to promote effective financial education and counseling, presented the EIFLE awards at the Annual Conference on Financial Education in Orlando, Florida.

Offered by Austin, Texas-based BancVue, Bank of Guam is currently offering Money Island to five schools, with plans to offer the program to all of Guam's schools by the start of the next school year. Schools currently participating include Saint Anthony Catholic School, Bishop Baumgartner, Santa Barbara, San Vicente and Dominican Catholic School. Money Island is available at no cost through the Bank of Guam's website at www.bankofguam.com.

Bank of Guam continues its financial literacy leadership for students after a successful "National Teach Children to Save Day" on April 24, 2012. ***(BoG)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-010

Opening Date: Tuesday, 4/13/12
Closing Date: Until Filled

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a United States commonwealth adjacent Asia and about three hours south of Tokyo, Japan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; developing procurement documents, evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Planning, design, construction management, and operations of water and wastewater systems in a marine environment. Research, write, and manage the conditions and requirements of federal grants for water and wastewater systems. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Water and Wastewater Divisions, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**.

SALARY: $60,000 to $90,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified.

(Plus negotiable relocation costs to and from the NMI if hired from outside the NMI, but not to exceed $15,000 for relocation to the NMI and not to exceed $5,000 for relocation away from the NMI)

POSITION(S): One.

CONTRACT: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Civil (or Environmental), Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of directly related experience in a water or wastewater utility. A Master's Degree in Engineering is preferred. Must be a licensed professional engineer from a U.S. state or territory. An engineer with an active NCEES Record preferred. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office or the CUC Tinian Office or CUC Rota Office. Failure to provide the required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-PD-065 (1-15)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 21, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS/HARDWARES/SOFTWARES TO INCLUDE INSTALLATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ADAM HARDWICKE
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-015

CALL CENTER SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Call Center Services for CUC Departments and Operating Centers located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **April 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-015, Call Center Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **April 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Janina Muna, Purchasing Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 101

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

High court should strike down Arizona's law

This week, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments over Arizona's controversial immigration law. Initial reports indicated the justices weren't buying the Obama administration's arguments against a provision that requires police officers to check the immigration status of people they think are in the country illegally.

We hope that's not the case. We think that provision and others in the law need to be struck down, and we hope the court upholds the primacy of federal law and agencies in dealing with immigration.

If it doesn't, expect more states to move in Arizona's direction and invite racial profiling and an assault on personal freedoms.

The frustration of Arizona and other states, especially those on the nation's borders, with federal immigration policy is understandable. And it's a mess not only for the states but also for the 11 million undocumented workers estimated to be in the United States. Although the influx of undocumented workers seems to be turning around, there is still a problem that the federal government has not yet dealt with.

It does not mean that states should try to supersede federal policy with their own laws, especially when they are as repulsive to American values as Arizona's.

Supporters of the law argue that it merely allows local law enforcement to cooperate more closely with federal authorities and that it expressly prohibits racial profiling.

They're being disingenuous. In addition to the "show me your papers" provision in the law, other provisions that have been blocked by lower courts include: requiring all immigrants to obtain or carry immigration registration papers, making it a state criminal offense for an illegal immigrant to seek work or hold a job and allowing police to arrest suspected illegal immigrants without warrants.

That goes beyond just cooperating with federal authorities; that's an attempt to take over federal policy. It also puts too much onus on the undocumented worker and not on employers that hire the worker.

And although the law tries to guard against racial profiling, what do supporters think will be the practical effect of a law that allows officers to detain people merely when they suspect that person may be in the country illegally? How many citizens—immigrants or not—carry with them proof of their citizenship? "Show me your papers" smacks too much of authoritarian regimes that like to keep their thumbs on their citizens.

Arizona does not need this law; the United States does not need this law or others like it.

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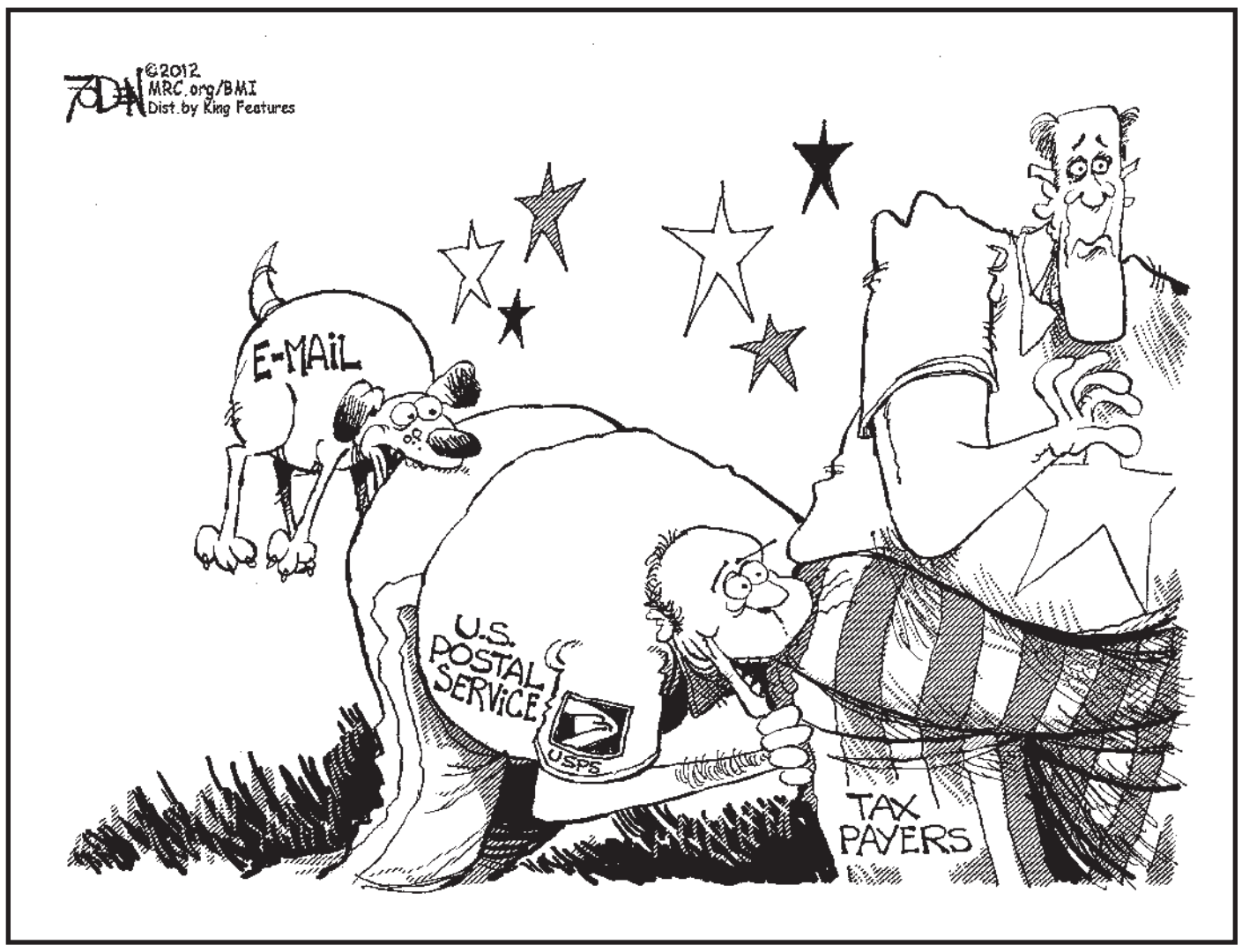
Fix Social Security, now

The Social Security trustees projected this week that funding for retirement benefits will run short in 2033, three years sooner than had been estimated a year ago. After that, the program will be able to pay only about 75 percent of the amount now promised to retirees and the disabled. That's still a long way off, and lawmakers may not want to meddle with Social Security in an election year. But the longer Congress waits to deal with the problem, the harder it will be to solve.

The last time lawmakers made significant changes to Social

See FIX on Page 13



Let's do some finger pointing for all our misery

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Now that the sky is falling down on our heads, let's point our finger at the ones who caused all this misery. After all, someone else caused it, not us. We have been innocent bystanders. They should have known better. Didn't we elect them to do our thinking and hold our hands while we blissfully looked the other way? Why, who else caused all these problems that have sunk us into a state of mental and economic depression? Of course, the legislators and the administration are the causes of all these problems. Let's point out finger at them for all our misery.

The reason the pension fund is now in bankruptcy is because the government didn't pay into it all the money it deducted from our salaries. Forget the fact that this has been going on for many years and done by several governors. Forget the fact that the legislators knew of this and never said a word or did anything to correct it. Forget the fact that all of us knew this also and never said a word to stop it. Now that the sky has fallen down, we are screaming angrily. I feel so sad for so many innocent people that are being hurt. What future will they have for supporting themselves? Let's point our finger at the legislators and the administration.

The Commonwealth Health Center is now in a state of emergency because it is so far into debt and is unable to collect its bills on time to meet its basic expenses. Why are we screaming only now? Forget the fact that doctors when they resigned and others have been saying this from years back. Forget the fact that the problem started many years ago. Forget the fact that we also knew of its problems and said nothing. Now that the sky has fallen down, we are screaming angrily. What will we do for medical treatment now that we are in such dire straits? Didn't we know these problems would arise when we spent so much money to build the hospital? Have we forgotten the tremendous cost overrun problem we faced while building it? Let's point our finger at the legislators and the administration.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is forcing more businesses to go out of business than any other factor. The utility rates in our homes are escalating almost monthly to the point that many of us have resorted to barely turning on the lights in our houses. The Public School System has restricted the number of hours for air-conditioning and still cannot meet its bill. Forget that we have wrestled with this problem for over 25 years. Forget that several years ago we spent a huge sum of money to rent generators with the plan to replace or repair the existing ones and never did. Forget that we have played around with privatizing it with foolish offers to potential investors enough to scare them away. Forget that for years we have mouthed about seeking alternative energy sources, to no avail. Let's point our finger at the legislators and the administration.

Before I continue, I have a favor to ask. Please stand in front of a mirror and reread the previous paragraphs while looking at the reflection in the mirror. Of course, the reflection is us. Can we honestly say that we didn't see or understand all of these problems before they became so horrendous?

Ladies and gentlemen, don't most of the illnesses we suffer start from a small pain or incident? For example, if the doctor says we have cancer, will we just ignore it? Or what if we contract diabetes what will happen should we neglect it? Of course, they become huge and can even cause death.

Now to my point: Where were we when these problems that we are faced with started? Can we truthfully say we didn't know about them? Didn't we understand that they would go out of control someday? What action or concern did we express? Didn't various individuals express serious concerns? Why didn't we listen and try to do something about them when they were still small? Remember, we are looking at ourselves in the mirror while we are discussing this.

Daily we are becoming more and more frantic. Many of our fellow citizens have already departed and others are planning to shortly. So what should we do? Do we keep our heads buried in the sand? Let's point our finger at the legislators and the administration, right?

Keep looking at the reflection in the mirror. Honestly speaking, we are also to blame as well. We remained silent when we saw or heard of the problems. Did we figure that someone else would correct them? Do we still want to blame the legislators and the administration? I learned a long time ago that when I point my finger at someone in blame, three fingers point back at me!

But it is not too late to reverse the trend. We need a plan. I am going to be blunt and hopefully some of us will listen and jump on board. The first plan is to improve our tourist market. All of us must understand that tourists are our guests because we invite them and also need them to boost our economy. But how many of us are interested in tourism as a business? Or do we just ignore it and expect MVA to do the entire job?

People, we must reach out our hands to our guests and show them that they are welcome. Notice the rash of crime against them at our scenic spots. Are we demanding that this be stopped with whatever it takes? How supportive of the victims are we? There is so much more we can do. Remember, each happy tourist is a walking ad-

See MISERY on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The increasing price of oil is destroying future growth potential of small islands—and it's going to get worse

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

I have been wondering just how long island economies and their residents—who depend on imports of all kinds—can weather the economic abuse of having to cope with ever increasing energy costs related to imported oil—a crisis the economies the world over have never before experienced. Sooner or later a tipping point will be reached as a result of the increasing cost of oil where many of the amenities of 21st century living with modern conveniences begin to be weighed against the tradeoff of accepting lower living standards. It is already happening.

The principle ingredient in providing a desired standard of living for many is of course reliable electric energy at a reasonable cost. This is central to enjoying many of the amenities one takes for granted in making life comfortable and rewarding. I wonder at what point in the price structure of a utility corporation does full cost recovery for imported fuel oil for their generators become an unsustainable burden for many island businesses and residences to bear?

Currently there is talk about the possibility of gasoline, a derivative of petroleum, increasing to $9 a gallon in the U.S. If that were to occur, can you imagine what the cost would be on islands situated in the western Pacific? It may be that there will be some islands where the cost of living will become so prohibitive for many that the allure of living on a relatively isolated island will become increasingly difficult to accept. There can be no doubt that a major factor influencing such decisions will be the price of oil. Contracts for oil futures, including light crude, for June 2012 are $104.55 per barrel

It should be obvious that continued reliance on oil is not the answer to the CNMI's long-term power dilemma particularly as several energy experts have predicted the price could go as high as $200 a barrel. For those non-islanders, not in a privileged position, to remain on island will require increasing sacrifices and adjustment as oil prices increase. For some, a return to subsistence farming and fishing may soon be a viable option as imported food prices increase to reflect shipping costs, which in turn are influenced by the price of oil. It all goes back to oil. In my mind the analogy with cancer is fitting—you can leave it be and die or cut it out and live. So it is with continued reliance on oil as a future source of energy.

Until the late '50s almost all electric power in the world was produced by coal fired, steam driven turbine generators. When Middle East oil fields were developed and oil prices were $2.50 a barrel private firms and utilities switched to this cheaper fuel and abandoned the use of coal. Now oil prices hover around $100 a barrel and in my judgment it is worthwhile considering the viability of a return to the use of coal with due consideration given the environmental impact, with a willingness to accept tradeoffs—something environmental "purists" are loath to accept.

The discharge from the stacks of coal burning facilities into the atmosphere can be controlled by new, existing technology called "scrubbers." This equipment cleans the vaporous discharge as it is released into the environment. Ideally a generating plant should be situated to take advantage of the prevailing winds and adjacent to or near the port. Wind powered generators also offer promise with fallback on an alternate energy source when the wind either subsides or is otherwise so strong during storms that the blades must be feathered and energy production temporarily curtailed.

According to a report by the International Monetary Fund, China's GDP is expected to rebound strongly this year, propelled largely by increased domestic consumer consumption. This translates into an increase in the demand for oil. This is important since the Chinese also need reliable energy sources to continue their remarkable, economic boom. China needs to procure oil supplies from around the globe to facilitate growth and this is a factor in increasing the cost of oil for everyone. The greater the demand, the shorter the supply, the higher the price.

Add the factor of living in dangerous times as evidence of the situation with a recalcitrant North Korea and the powder keg in the Middle East. Both cause unstable world conditions, contributing to a degree of economic uncertainty as in the case of increases in the cost of a barrel of oil. This is very much the stuff over which world powers wage wars.

Editor's note: The author studied the "Economics of National Security" from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (now the Defense University) of which the allocation of national resources was a component.

Tradision: Satbasion Natibu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Sessu umadiñgan ham yan un' biha teñga dispues de finagpu' misa. Umasoda' ham un' biahe gi fina' fiesta. Sige i amku' ha na'ye platuña agu'on haya, tinala' katne yan inaflitun guihan. Ha tanchu' i agu'on haya, golai yan fresku na katne yan guihan dispues ilegña: "Mafattu ginen tradision natibu, fangualu'an yan tasi. Estague' 'nai gaige esperansa yan satbasion natibu."

Pagu na tiempu 'nai ta-fagchae' didog na chinatsaga 'nai kulan hoñgga ekun hafa fino'ña i amku' giya guaha mas ke trenta años antes. Lau kumonbetsasion ham dispues para bai' ke taka' sustansian fino'ña sa' taduñg yan sustansiau mampos 'an un' repara.

"Deste antes, i gualu yan tasi 'nai man-malulog i famaguon natibu. Chechu' gualu yan peska 'nai man-mafana'gue pisun lina'la'," ha esplika giya guahu.

"I gualu 'nai gaige i pisun tradision natibu ni hana' inayuyuda ginen hafa' kinine'ña gi sanhalom 'sino chagu' na tasi", ha esplika mas. "Mananom agu'on, golai, gulusina yan mamamogsai ga'ga' para uson familia; estague' likidu modun lina'la' natibu antes."

"Ti komprendiyon i mampos chadeg yan metgut na tinilaika ginen hafa hagas kumatsu lina'la' natibu deste antigu na tiempu", ha apunta huyoñg. "Todu matulaika modun linala'ña, kontodu i taimanu 'nai ha krea'ansa famaguon niha."

Ha apunta i amku' na antes i famaguon man-malag i gualu ya marempesa entalu tinanom yan manafañochu i ga'ga. Pagu sali ke television, video yan todu klasen huegu, rap yan reggae na klasen dandan. "Magtos i hagas fitme na pogse' ni gumu'ot yan umesgaihon mona kinahulu' famaguon natibu."

Ilegña i amku', "I che'chu gualu sumen dañkulu benefisioña gi maseha haye na patgon. Fuera de nina' humidde, umeyag uson trastes gualu, mananom, mañgusecha, mamogsai yan man-ayuda gi mañainaña che'chu familia." Dispues ha apunta sin ditensiion, "Ennau na patgon malulog mauleg gi che'chu' tinituhon modun lina'la', sustansian finana'guen mañainaña, linala' espirituat, ya mas fitme mañaña achog ha' hu diñgu i pettan sanmena."

Sige dispues hu atetuye manu chiña ayu na finu' amku'. Dispues giya guahu ha', konfotmeyu ni sustansian konsehuña sa' dididi' ha' mohon ya gai pinasensia i natibu, tat gi che'chu pisun tradision ti uma-adelanta deste ayu siha na tiempu. Tat ti matanom ti umakusecha' sa' mas siempre atbansau modun sisteman fangualu'an gi halom manlancheru. Dididi' kulan hana' fan hassuyu' ni dañkulon maliñgun tradision na pisun natibu deste antes esta kase ennau in 1960 siha na sakan.

Sinahguan pottanmoneda

'Nai machuchuda' pottanmonedamu, kada pueñge i tininun katne, kelaguen guihan yan maneskada gi hilu' minagof suetten familia. Lamegai man-gai suette mabende 'sino ma-atkilan tanu' familia. De dios na kantida machuda' guihe na tiempu. Man-mafahan deste kareta, boti yan trela (trailor), alahas, bakasion para sanlagu, yan man-guaguan trastes dandan yan video.

Guaha tomtum disposisioña ya ha inbesta lamayot patte gi ayu na suette 'sino ha pega gi bañku para u fan gagana interes. Gi uttimon i sakan, marikonose kuantu guaha na ganansia ya man-apatte i familia. Tatnai ma-estotba i prinsipat pot para umana' fan gana interes. Siña lokue' membron familia man-ayau kontra ayu na pine'lu. Libianu finapos este na familia.

I dumiskuida siha gi hilu' che'chu' dispetdisiu, gaige na mana'lu tatte gi hagas hayun niha. Sessu makasas ilun niha sa' taya' mana' sahñge para usun familia dispues 'sino 'nai guaha gotpe pat chinatsaga. Maseha tatatte i siñetsut dididi' atrasau. Magahet na lamegai na kes kustiyas babue, manog, kachu' yan sitbesa magulusune guihe na tiempu. Kontodu guahu man-ayuda gi oriyan guafe man-bira tininu.

Pagu na tiempu 'nai ta nesessita ayu na suette. Lau kulan minachom atdau gi sanlagu, maliñgu gi finatton pueñge ha homhum i mapagahes. U guaha mohon agupa' otru suette 'an manana si Yuus agupa'?

■■■

Yangin para u birague' tatte i natibu gumualu', magpu' ensegidas i nobena sa' fuera de buente memegaiña esta hagas man-ma-atkila tanu' niha ya taya' plaset para hatdin familia.

Huñgan, guaha ayudon food stamps lau siempre mas menos ennau na ayudu para mona. Listu i republican gi kongresson Amerika umutot este na ayudu pot para u asegura na ti mapua i batkon gobietnon federat gi halom napun biyon pot biyon pesus na dibi.

■■■

Yangin ma'tut un dia pagamientun man-ritirau, hafa mohon para umasusede 'nai mas ke dos mit na familia ensegidas man-pinalo'pu' lina'la' miserable? U guaha mohon satbasion ginen i man-sabiun i Hegsu' I Deni? Adahe na siha finenina fumalague fina' halom tanu' pot no u fana' publiku dibuenamente ya uma-oppe i estau ni siha kumonduse halom pot che'chu' diskuidu.

Diberas, este na programa siña ha' tumachu ta'lu dos, tres anos lau ti u mas ke ennau na tiempu. Siempre u dimu sa' pot 32 dos años maletke fondu ni man-sabiun i Deni'. Siña ha' ilelegña i gobietnu na guaha sinida'ña satbasion, lau kau petmanente ennau na asuntu pat para un' ratu ha'? Guseña gi segundu patte sa' ni guiya i gobietnu ti ha tuñgu' hafa sessu taimanu 'nai siña i programa tumachu gi dos adeñgña.

Mauleg ebalua kabales hafa para u fan mapropone antes de ta hala ta'lu talañgata' sa' man-hasupag hit gi un' asuntu ni debi u mana' guaha kabales na inestudia.

Letters to the Editor

Autism, self-advocacy, and transition beyond high school

What kind of life do you want after high school? Where will you live? Will you be working or going to school? Do not worry if you feel overwhelmed or are confused by these questions. Deciding about your future takes time to figure out. If you are like most autistic people, your plans will change many times as you learn more about yourself.

Transition from high school in particular is stressful for any teenager and may even be scary. Unlike high schools, which are required to identify students with disabilities and accommodate them, after high school it will be up to you to make others aware of your disability and ask for an accommodation. The burden will be on you to address your needs.

One thing you need to do is learn to advocate for yourself. You need to be comfortable with your disability and be able to approach different situations with confidence. It is important that you learn to step up and ask for whatever you need because you will have to do this throughout the rest of your life.

Self-advocacy is about speaking up, making decisions, getting information about things that interest you and identifying who will support you. It is also about knowing your rights and responsibilities, reaching out to others when you need help and learning about self-determination. This is important so you have the knowledge to succeed and the opportunity to participate in decisions about you.

Self-advocacy involves knowing when and how to approach others to negotiate desired goals, and to build better understanding, relationships, and trust. Sometimes it may be necessary to explain why an accommodation is needed or helpful. As such, an important skill for successful self-advocacy is self-awareness. People on the autism spectrum of disorders need to understand how autism affects their interactions with others and need to be familiar with their strengths and challenges.

It is important to advocate for equality but, at the same time, the goal is *integration*, not *segregation*. It is therefore equally important to respect ourselves as well as the community. Self-advocates need to appreciate the progress that has been made for people with disabilities and remember that *cooperation* is the best way to create change.

For more information about autism, transition and self-advocacy, please send an email to as_cnmi@gmail.com.

Vince Merfalen
via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

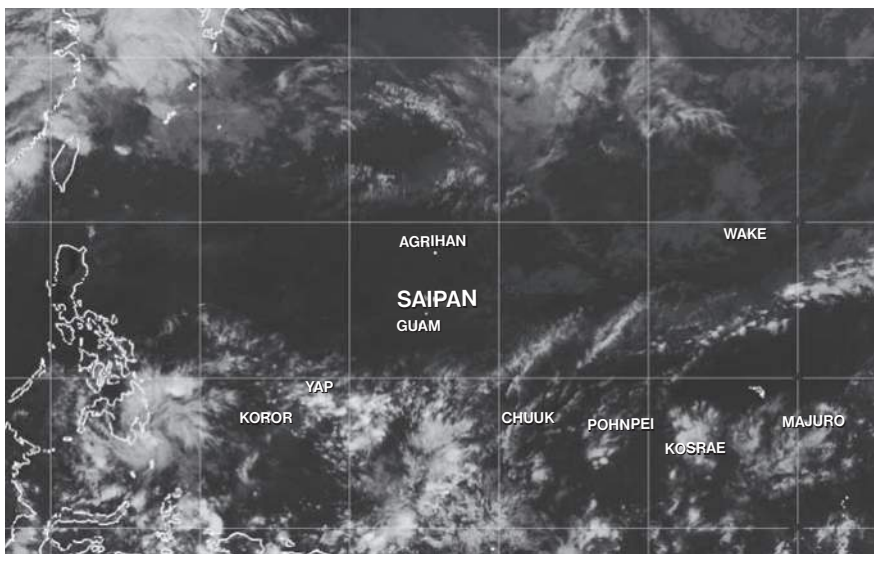
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼59
Beijing	Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼79
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81	▼72
London	Showers	▲56	▼47
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼83
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Miami	Thundershowers	▲79	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼47
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼48
Pusan	Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Rome	Showers	▲74	▼56
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼48
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼57
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼56
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weakening frontal boundary extends southwestward from a low centered near 26N180 to end north of Chuuk near 11N151E. Scattered Showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the front east of 13N167E while scattered light showers are located north of Pohnpei and Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 12N151E to 14N167E. A weak cold front north of the Marianas runs southwestward from 25N151E to 21N141E then continues as a nearly stationary front to beyond 130E at 25N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Majuro between 11N and 3N from 174E to the date line. A weak surface trough stretches southwestward over Kosrae from 8N163E to 3N162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring over Kosrae between 8N and 3N from 161E to 165E. A surface trough curves southeastward from 10N136E to EQ145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located near Yap within 190 miles of a line from 11N135E to 5N142E and southwest of Chuuk between 9N and the equator from 142E to 148E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
2:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:50 PM	12:51 AM
Tuesday	1:45 PM	1:34 AM
Wednesday	2:40 PM	2:18 AM
Thursday	3:38 PM	3:02 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	3:48 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Federal SSI

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., more popularly known as NMPASI.

I enjoyed what is likely to be the shortest tenure of any federal officer ever to don the label of "a Fed" recently. After nearly two years of jumping through hoops (i.e., multiple layers of personal screening: skills/competency testing, drug-testing, medical/physical assessments, and background checks that to my surprise included a credit-history check), I found myself with right hand raised "swearing (and affirming)" to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, etc., etc.—a proud moment to say the least. A week and a half later, my new (what was supposed to be a part-time) gig evolved into a full-time commitment in direct conflict with my day job and, to make a long story short, I had to make a painful choice between two very good jobs (apparently, you can't have your cake and eat it too). Of course, there are fates worse than mine and though hindsight is 20/20, the choices we make are not always so clear except that, when two roads diverge, you can not travel both.

The experience (albeit brief) was eye-opening and humbling in the face of what is termed "SSI"—Sensitive Security Information—the stuff we think we know but don't know that we don't know what we think we know even when we know that we don't know it. You know, the cryptic stuff which I am not at liberty to discuss—not to be confused with classified information, mind you, I've never been even a blip on any kind of privileged pecking order. But basically, there is much more than meets the eye with respect to ongoing efforts to protect our great nation and the terrorist attempts to harm it. I, for one, am grateful to all the good men and women who stand at the various frontlines…and, that's all I have to say about that.

For advocates at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), "SSI" represents something entirely different—Supplemental Security Income, a welfare benefits program for individuals with disabilities from the Social Security Administration. Unfortunately, as I see it, this benefit epitomizes everything that is both good and bad in the general quest to improve the lives and standing of individuals with disabilities in society. On the one hand it's good because it provides a life-saving income to numerous people who (through no fault of their own) can't provide for themselves, but on the other, like all welfare programs, it fuels an ever-growing culture of dependence—a phenomenon which, in my opinion, poses as much a threat to the strength of our nation as any terrorist group. Thomas Jefferson had it right when he said, "Democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give it to those who would not" (Coincidentally, isn't our democracy now a primary target in jihad?) It isn't such a fine line between those who can't do for themselves and those who won't, though one can hardly blame the ones that don't when they often stand to make as much, if not more, for doing nothing than they would working a full-time job. Of course, that too is a choice. Beyond that, this benefit and the people who receive it have been the subject of some egregious abuses and fraud including, but not limited to other people (often their own family) taking their money away from them…sad, but true.

As a passing thought, there is something innately wrong with a system that requires a person to be vetted so extensively (i.e., background checks, drug-testing, etc.) in order to earn an opportunity to work for a federal income, but places no such scrutiny for someone to receive federal money (and other benefits) for free. Whether we have a disability, are indigent or otherwise, shouldn't we all be held to the same litmus test for a share of the federal pie?

For more on government benefits and/or other programs for individuals with disabilities, please call the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or contact us online via www.nmpasi.org.

Letters to the Editor

Tony's battle cry

Ya gotta give Tony Pellegrino credit. The guy is a bona fide optimist and can-do guy, tireless in his enthusiasm and genuinely concerned and worried about the future of the islands, especially the young people. Every other week we see a well thought out, articulate column that is meant to be a positive approach to solving the islands' economic problems. I always agree with Tony and his analogies and down-to-earth words of wisdom ring true to life, no matter where you live or what your culture or creed is.

On one hand I want to say keep those letters coming Tony, the collective subconscious of society needs to constantly repetitively hear this positive self-talk in order to slowly start reprogramming itself. Change doesn't happen overnight. Keep up the good work, someone has to and your words will eventually ignite the fire in the belly of one young person who'll see the light. A light long dimmed and shut off in their parents' ignorant eyes.

One the other hand, I want to say, Tony, dude, wake up! You can't fix stupid. Unfortunately some things in life are simply broken and can't be fixed, that's it. Broken and done. Your sage words and Norman Vincent Peale power of positive thinking just won't work on these people. They don't get it and probably never will.

I remember living up the road from a family that was, to say it politely...KooKoo. The family drank from dawn to dusk, piled garbage in their front lawn and never worked. The father was collecting a check from one of garment factories but never worked a day, the whole family was living on food stamps, nobody worked, and the eldest boy was an insane ice addict. This was the family from hell to have as a neighbor. One day the eldest daughter I guess broke up with the husband, or whatever, and kicked him out of their little side house on the property. She then proceeded to burn the house down. As the house burnt behind her, she propped up her barbecue and started cooking in front of the burning house, had a Bud, and went about her business seemingly with no care of the fire in her backyard. This seems to be metaphoric of what's happening to a sadly high percentage of the local population. Their world is burning to the ground behind them but they're happy to barbecue.

Tony, the people who need to hear your words most are also the ones not capable socially of understanding what you're trying to say. They're broken and unable to change the model of the universe they have been born into and have been accustomed to for all their lives. You can't change their nature. Do I really believe this? To some degree, unfortunately yes. Should Tony stop wasting his time writing pleas and stories of the "little engine that could" to people who couldn't care about anything except their free government handouts? I don't know...I really don't know...

Chris West
Santa Monica, Calif.

Public hearing

Dear residents of Sadog Tasi, As Mahetog, Puerto Rico, Capital Hill, and Navy Hill: There is a proposal to develop what is presently a rural area and change it into a commercial outdoor entertainment to include paintball games. We understand that the applicant also plans to develop in the future a shooting range, an archery range, and bike trails at the dead end of Sadog Tasi Drive. There will be a public hearing at the Zoning Office in Dandan on May 3, Thursday, at 5pm on the second floor of the Joeten Dandan Building. Neighbors and friends, if you wish for Sadog Tasi to remain rural, you need to attend the public hearing and voice your concerns. A paintball games facility will increase motor traffic, noise, dirt, and dust hazards to children walking and playing on Sadog Tasi Drive. The road is presently one-lane that is partially paved with asphalt. If you wish to have a voice in this matter, your attendance at the public hearing is essential.

Lupe Camacho Borja-Robinson
John H. Robinson
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Save the Fund

I'm writing in response to the article of April 19, 2012, titled "Fight bankruptcy proceeding." I was not at the highly charged public meeting covering this topic, but it is clear from the comments I read that many people are very confused about the general issue. Everyone knows the Fund has serious problems but who caused those problems? Let me make this clear: Those who oversee and administer the Fund *did not cause the problem*! They are, however, attempting to solve those problems and save the Fund.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy is for the purpose of reorganizing the Fund so as to save it. It also prevents anyone from removing money from it for any reason other than paying the retirees. I myself plan (at some point) to retire and draw money from the Fund, and I find at least a little hope in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. In a closely related issue, the proposal to allow people to withdraw 50 percent of their contributions is very destructive; does anyone think removing large sums of money will help save the Fund? If these withdrawals are allowed, the Fund will be done. Is that clear enough? If people start pulling money out, retirement checks will stop. There will no longer be enough money to write the checks! We need to infuse the Fund with more money, not take money out. That seems pretty obvious. Chapter 11 blocks these proposed withdrawals.

Keep in mind that even though the local courts have ruled that the central government owes the Fund a couple of hundred million dollars, they cannot force the government to pay. Chapter 11 moves the situation to the federal courts and they do have the power to compel payment. They could, for example, seize property, sell it, and put the money in the Fund.

Also, community members must remember just who caused the Fund's money problems, and it was not the Fund or those who administer or oversee it. Our wonderful central government (legislators and governors) caused all the Fund's problems. They borrowed tens of millions of dollars from the Fund and never paid it back. They also (as everyone should know) have not remitted the matching money that (by law) they are obligated to submit to the Fund. Money has been (is being) taken from our checks and placed in the Fund (which is proper); however, by law the government is mandated to match that money and place it in the Fund, but they have not done so. It is the incompetence of the central government (past and present) that has caused all these problems, and they have done absolutely nothing to try and fix them. Judge Govendo made some reasonable suggestion as to how to help the Fund stay afloat but none of his ideas have been implemented.

There are ways of saving (or at least helping) the Fund, such as implementing a 6-percent sales tax on purchases (but not on unprepared food or medicine) and placing the generated revenue in the Fund. Why hasn't that been done? Also, it has been suggested that the proceedings from the golf course leases be place in the Fund. That would also help the situation; why hasn't that been done? Basically, the central government (both past and present) caused the Fund problems and has *done nothing to solve them*! Those hired to oversee and run the Fund are trying to save it. I don't think I can make this any clearer. I hope the majority of the community members now understand.

Thomas D. Wilkins
San Antonio, Saipan

FIX

From Page 10

Security was in 1983, when they raised payroll taxes and gradually increased the retirement age. Those changes were made not just to solve a near-term funding crisis but also to gird the system for the baby boom generation's retirement. By the mid-1990s, however, it became clear that the changes had not gone far enough, and the program was projected to run short of cash before the last of the boomers is off the books.

It's hard to predict exactly how payroll tax revenue will compare with benefit costs in five years, let alone 20, so it makes sense for lawmakers to move carefully. But Social Security was facing a multitrillion-dollar shortfall even before the recession, and the situation has deteriorated since then. Over the last three years, the trustees have steadily raised the estimated cost of restoring the program's ability to pay full benefits for the foreseeable future. They now say it would require the equivalent of an immediate 20 percent increase in Social Security taxes or a permanent 16 percent cut in benefits.

There are far less draconian changes that could be made to narrow the long-term funding gap, such as raising the cap on wages subject to payroll taxes. But these measures become less sufficient each year Congress waits to put them into effect. At the very least, lawmakers will have to address the looming shortfall in Social Security's disability funding, which is expected to run out by 2016. The simplest solution to that problem would be to shift money from Social Security's retirement trust fund into disability benefits, but that would only hasten the depletion of the retirement funds.

President Obama's latest budget proposal says he is "committed to making sure that Social Security is solvent and viable for the American people, now and in the future," but such talk is easy; to date, he has offered no proposal to shore up the system's finances. Rather than simply taking shots at what his GOP opponent, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, has suggested, the president should offer a plan of his own and engage the public in a debate over the options. The program's problems may seem distant, but the time to start fixing them is now.

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MISERY

From Page 10

vertisement when he returns home. I have learned that in selling a product or a service, the customer always buys me first and what I have to offer second. If he doesn't like me or connect with me, he will not buy regardless of the price or service. This is called sales and marketing. Unfortunately I feel we aren't doing such a good job. Tourism is us, not just MVA.

There is another gigantic industry waiting for us. It is agriculture and I will discuss it again in my next article. Meanwhile keep smiling. Remember if you cry, you cry alone. But if you smile we all smile with you. I know it is difficult to smile at times. But what else should we do? So smile whether you feel it or not! Have a great week.

Business

Dubai spends $250M to get full control of Atlantis

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Dubai says it now has full control of the Atlantis resort hotel perched atop its palm-shaped island.

State-run investment firm Istithmar World said late Friday it paid $250 million to buy out financially troubled business partner Kerzner International Holdings Ltd., which had held a 50 percent stake in the coral-colored hotel. Istithmar already owned half of the property.

Kerzner will continue to operate the resort, which includes a waterpark and 18 restaurants, Istithmar said.

It agreed to give up its stake in the Dubai property and a similar resort in the Bahamas after struggling to restructure $2.6 billion in debt. Canada's Brookfield Asset Management acquired the Bahamas property in a previously announced deal by agreeing to waive $175 million in debt owed by Kerzner.

Kerzner said it plans to use proceeds from the Dubai sale to reduce its debt load.

Istithmar is part of Dubai state conglomerate Dubai World, which has struggled with high-profile debt troubles of its own. It owns upscale retailer Barneys New York and has a stake in performance company Cirque du Soleil.

"This acquisition is in line with our strategy of managing our assets for value and investing selectively where growth opportunities exist," Dubai World's chairman, Sheik Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, said in a statement.

Istithmar's parent Dubai World was at the heart of Dubai's financial meltdown in 2009. It signed an agreement to restructure some $25 billion in debt last March.

The Atlantis is one of Dubai's better-known tourist destinations. It is a mainstay of city tours, vying for attention with the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa, and more traditional offerings such as the old gold and spice markets. Ads for the hotel greet Dubai airport passengers on arrival.

Atlantis opened for business in September 2008, shortly after a construction fire damaged part of the brightly painted lobby.

A lavish coming-out party for the resort two months later cost $20 million and featured a celebrity guest list that included Robert DeNiro and Lindsay Lohan. Australian pop star Kylie Minogue provided the entertainment.

The 1,537-room hotel is at the top of the Palm Jumeirah, the first of Dubai's palm-shaped manmade islands and the only one that is developed. Visitors arrive by monorail or by traveling through an underwater tunnel.

AP

This Wednesday Sept. 8, 2010 file photo shows an avenue leading to the Atlantis hotel on Palm Jumeira Island in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Dubai says it now has full control over the Atlantis resort hotel perched at the top of its palm-shaped island.

German opposition says EU treaty likely delayed

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel's refusal to amend a European treaty on fiscal discipline with measures to promote growth in struggling EU countries might delay the deal's ratification in Germany, an opposition leader said.

The Social Democrats' caucus leader Frank-Walter Steinmeier told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung daily on Saturday that his party also wants a financial transaction tax in return for the treaty's ratification. Merkel needs the opposition's support to garner a two-thirds majority.

Steinmeier told the paper that Merkel offered no concessions when she last met the opposition leaders four weeks ago, and she has yet to reconvene a meeting, likely delaying the ratification initially scheduled for late May.

Bipartisan initiatives have recently become more difficult in Germany with two important state elections looming next month.

The German opposition's stance echoes demands now voiced across Europe, saying that stimulating growth is necessary because austerity measures alone can't save struggling economies such as Greece, Portugal or even Spain—where unemployment now hovers close to 25 percent.

Merkel, the leader of Europe's biggest economy, acknowledges the need for growth, but insists that deficits must be trimmed first to overcome the debt crisis and return to a stable path of growth.

But resisting the German opposition's demands to stimulate growth would be much more difficult if Merkel loses her conservative ally President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, the 17-nation eurozone's second-largest economy, because his Socialist rival - who is the frontrunner for the run-off ballot next month - has insisted on amending the treaty to include growth-stimulating measures.

Growth slowed at year's start but some see rebound

WASHINGTON (AP)—Don't panic yet. The government reported Friday that the economy got off to a tepid start this year, but that doesn't foreshadow a repeat of the near-standstill that happened in 2011.

"The economy is firmly on a growth trajectory," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University's Smith School of Business. "The first-quarter slowdown will be temporary."

Still, the January-March report was discouraging.

Economists had expected gross domestic product—the broadest gauge of economic output—to expand at a 2.5 percent annual rate for the first three months of the year. Instead, the Commerce Department said it was 2.2 percent, mainly because of government budget-cutting and a slowdown in business investment.

And some of the January-March growth, meager as it was, probably came at the expense of the current quarter. An unseasonably warm winter pulled car buyers into showrooms earlier than usual.

The same was true for housing construction. That's one reason it jumped at a 19 percent pace from January through March.

Economists doubt consumers can keep spending as freely as they did in the first three months of this year: an annual pace that was 2.9 percent faster than in the previous quarter and the fastest in more than a year. They probably can't afford to. Americans' after-tax income rose just 0.6 percent in the first three months compared with a year earlier. That was the puniest pay increase in two years.

People spent more in part because they socked away less. The savings rate fell to 3.9 percent of after-tax income. That was down from 4.5 percent. Economists worry that people won't keep spending more unless their income grows.

Stock prices rose Friday despite the report of weaker growth. David Rosenberg, chief economist at Gluskin Sheff, said investors might have bid up stocks because they think the Federal Reserve is more likely to pursue another round of bond buying to stimulate the economy.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke "has created the impression that if the economy stumbles, he'll be there to hold your hand," Rosenberg said.

The lackluster first-quarter growth follows government reports that hiring slowed sharply in March and the number of people seeking unemployment benefits reached a three-month high.

With 12.7 million people unemployed, today's economy needs much faster growth to boost hiring. Growth would have to be roughly 4 percent for a full year to lower the unemployment rate, now 8.2 percent, by 1 percentage point.

In 2011, a series of setbacks struck the economy. Gas prices rose sharply. An earthquake in Japan shuttered factories there and cut off supplies to U.S. manufacturers. A standoff in Washington brought the federal government to the brink of default, rattling investors and consumer confidence. And Europe's debt crisis threatened to diminish U.S. exports and further spook investors.

The economy slowed to an annual rate of just 0.4 percent in the first quarter of 2011. Unemployment, which had been falling, rose again last summer.

But most economists think the U.S. economy is more resilient this year.

The job market, household finances and businesses are all in better shape than they were a year ago. Supplies are flowing freely. Political bickering has eased. And the fears about Europe have subsided at least temporarily.

"People are less concerned that the eurozone crisis could engulf the whole world," says Nigel Gault, an economist with IHS Global Insight.

A 55-cent run-up in gasoline prices (to an average $3.83 a gallon) isn't hurting as much this year. In part, that's because drivers are getting used to paying more. And families' finances are sturdier after another year of paying down debts.

In addition, some factors that held back growth in the first quarter aren't expected to last. Businesses splurged on software and equipment at the end of 2011 because of an expiring tax break. That stole economic activity, in effect, from the first quarter. Companies will probably resume spending again later this year.

And economists say government spending will probably rebound—or at least stop falling—because state and local governments are collecting more tax revenue as their economies slowly recover.

"Their budget holes are getting a lot smaller," says Jay Bryson, global economist for Wells Fargo.

Most of all, the job market is stronger than it was last year. Unemployment has fallen from 9.1 percent in August to 8.2 percent in March. The economy has added nearly 1.9 million jobs over the past year. More hiring is creating more pay and more spending—a cycle in which hiring and consumer spending reinforce each other and grow.

Economists note that Friday's report isn't the final word on first-quarter growth. It is just an initial estimate. The government will revise the figures in May and again in June.

Then in July, the growth figures will be tweaked yet again. That's when the government will revise its estimates of growth from 2009 through the first quarter of this year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China and Russia sign contracts worth $15 billion

MOSCOW (AP)—Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang has announced the signing of contracts between China and Russia worth a total of $15 billion. Speaking at a trade and investment forum in Moscow attended by hundreds of Chinese businessmen, Li said he and one of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's top deputies had witnessed the signing of contracts for "transport, energy, communications, high technology and investment projects." Li estimated the total value of the contracts signed on Saturday at more than $15 billion. Among the specific projects named, he said Russia and China were considering the joint design of a wide-body long-distance passenger plane. First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov told participants in the forum that Russia was working to improve its investment climate

Ex-Yahoo CEO got $16.4M package in final year

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Former Yahoo CEO Carol Bartz received a compensation package valued at $16.4 million in her final year on the job, including a $3 million severance payment after the troubled Internet company abruptly fired her last September. Bartz, now 63, stands to make even more from the nearly 386,000 shares of restricted stock and nearly 416,000 stock options that vested upon her ouster, according to a Friday regulatory filing from Yahoo Inc. Options and awards she got earlier in the year tallied at $12 million.

Regulators close 5 banks in 4 states

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators have closed two banks in Maryland and one each in Minnesota, South Carolina and California, bringing to 22 the number of U.S. banks that have failed so far this year. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Friday that it shuttered Bank of Eastern Shore, in Cambridge, Md., as well as HarVest Bank of Maryland, in Gaithersburg. Regulators also closed Inter Savings Bank in Maple Grove, Minn., Plantation Federal Bank in Pawleys Island, S.C., and Palm Desert National Bank in Palm Desert, Calif. Combined, the closed banks had $1.42 billion in assets and $1.34 billion in deposits as of Dec. 31.

Nation

High court's stance could spur immigration laws

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Emboldened by signals that the U.S. Supreme Court may uphold parts of Arizona's immigration law, legislators and activists across the country say they are gearing up to push for similar get-tough measures in their states.

"We're getting our national network ready to run with the ball, and saturate state legislatures with versions of the law," said William Gheen, president of Americans for Legal Immigration. "We believe we can pass it in most states."

That goal may be a stretch, but lawmakers in about a dozen states told The Associated Press they were interested in proposing Arizona-style laws if its key components are upheld by the Supreme Court. A ruling is expected in June on the Department of Justice's appeal that the law conflicts with federal immigration policy.

Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, said he was encouraged that several justices suggested during Wednesday's oral arguments that they are ready to let Arizona enforce the most controversial part of its law—a requirement that police officers check the immigration status of people they suspect are in the country illegally. Another provision allows suspected illegal immigrants to be arrested without warrants

"The justices sent a clear signal that there's a huge zone for state action in this area," Stein said. "There will be an enormous amount of energy spent in next few months examining the full range of possibilities."

For starters, a ruling in favor of Arizona's Senate Bill 1070 would likely enable Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah to put move forward with comparable measures that were enacted but have been on hold pending the high court's decision.

"If Arizona does very well, we'll do very well," said Alabama Sen. Scott Beason, sponsor of a law that in some respects is tougher than Arizona's. In addition to requiring police to determine citizenship status during traffic stops, it directs government offices to verify legal residency for transactions like obtaining a car license, enrolling a child in school and getting a job.

Lawmakers in such diverse states as Mississippi and Pennsylvania said they would be eager to follow the Arizona/Alabama model if the Supreme Court gives a green light.

"You look at poll after poll after poll, whether they're a business owner or employee or small business owner or executive, the majority of Americans support bills like 1070," said Pennsylvania Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, a Republican who chairs the House State Government Committee.

Metcalfe has already introduced a bill that incorporates Arizona's law and is waiting for a favorable Supreme Court ruling to bring it up in his committee.

In Mississippi, a get-tough immigration bill passed the House earlier this year but died in a Senate committee. Its backers plan to try again next year, and hope for a Supreme Court ruling that gives them guidance.

"This just ensures to the taxpayers of Mississippi that when we pass the law, we won't end up in a long court battle," said Republican Rep. Becky Currie.

As in Mississippi, South Dakota lawmakers also have rejected a measure based on the Arizona law, but its sponsor, Republican Rep. Manny Steele of Sioux Falls, says he's ready to try again.

"I would be excited to get another bill going back in there, according to what the Supreme Court decision is," Steele said.

Romney shakes up the strategy, tones down rhetoric

WESTERVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Mitt Romney's Etch A Sketch moment is at hand.

Now that he's the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Romney is shifting away from the "red-meat" issues of abortion and immigration and instead holding more events highlighting his appeal as a regular guy.

The transformation played out Friday when he emerged publicly for the first time in days at a central Ohio university carrying a hamburger and fries in a Styrofoam container.

In a small room that featured more television cameras than students, Romney chatted about economic issues facing young people as he picked through his greasy lunch.

Romney's appearance at Otterbein University wasn't the full strategic shakeup from primary to general election that some Republicans feared, but it offered a glimpse into what aides say will be a shift in tone and focus in the coming weeks as Romney fights to deny President Barack Obama a second term.

He will favor more intimate settings, like the Ohio classroom, and a schedule that calls for fewer public appearances as the campaign hopes to show a softer side of the former Massachusetts governor who struggles at times to connect with average Americans. That's a dramatic difference from Obama, who feeds on large crowds and has scheduled his first formal campaign rallies for May 5.

While the Republican presidential contest has been raging for more than a year, the Romney campaign concedes that most general election voters haven't yet paid close attention. The campaign now sees an opportunity to reintroduce their candidate to the independents and moderate voters—Hispanics and younger voters, among them—who will ultimately help decide November's general election. His focus will shift to Obama's record, his own economic credentials and what aides call "inspirational themes."

"I'm absolutely convinced that this nation is the greatest nation on earth, and it is so because of the American people, a people who stand united when called upon by leaders to be united," Romney said at Otterbein University Friday, offering unusually measured remarks - even for the former businessman's standards - mentioning Obama by name only a handful of times. "I will try and unite the American people, not divide us."

But the stop at Otterbein University highlighted Romney's challenge: His style on the campaign trail is a study in contrasts.

Romney is almost constantly cracking jokes with the people around him - whether they are governors or college students or his staff. He likes practical jokes and fast food, whether cameras are rolling or not. But he is at other times incredibly disciplined, refusing to take impromptu questions from reporters or wade into difficult subjects unprepared.

AP

A supporter of Arizona's "show me your papers" immigration law, who declined to be identified, demonstrates in front of the Supreme Court in Washington, Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

Scandal highlights lack of women in Secret Service

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secret Service agents are often portrayed in popular culture as disciplined, unflappable, loyal—and male. A spiraling prostitution scandal that has highlighted the dearth of women in the agency that protects the president and dignitaries has many wondering: Would more females in the ranks prevent future dishonor?

Only about a tenth of field agents and uniformed officers are women, a shortage some attribute to travel demands that can be especially taxing on women balancing families and careers. A scandal that risks portraying the agency as unfriendly to women, however, could set back efforts to close the gender gap.

"I can't help but think that there would be some progress if there was more diversity and if there were more women that were there," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. "When you have a diversity of people there, it brings more accountability. What you see is a lack of accountability in this."

Women make up about 25 percent of the agency's workforce, but only about 11 percent of agents and uniformed officers, said spokesman Ed Donovan. That's significantly lower than the 19 percent of female special agents in the FBI, though higher than the 9.7 percent of special agents who are women in the Drug Enforcement Administration. The Secret Service does not provide gender breakdowns on the agents assigned to presidential details, though women have been included on those assignments for years.

The agency has aggressively recruited women, targeting female-oriented career fairs and sending brochures to colleges.

"We all recognize that we want to get more women into the Secret Service," Donovan said.

But that wasn't easy even before the prostitution embarrassment in Colombia, which unfolded two weeks ago when a dispute over payment between a prostitute and Secret Service officer spilled into a hotel hallway. A dozen Secret Service employees and a dozen enlisted military personnel have been implicated. Although Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said it appeared to be isolated, the agency has since confirmed it's investigating if employees hired prostitutes and strippers ahead of President Barack Obama's visit to El Salvador last year. The agency on Friday also announced stricter measures, including assigning chaperones on some trips to enforce new rules of conduct for agents and employees.

Paige Pinson, 45, spent 15 years with the agency and her father, W. Ralph Basham, is a former director. She said it wasn't the culture that encouraged her to forego her agent's position. After all, male agents were loyal to each other and fiercely protective of her. She'd drink alongside them at bars and laughed at the "groupies" who fawned over their status. It was, instead, the birth of her first child that inspired her to seek a less travel-intensive analyst's position. She left the agency in 2009.

"You do miss birthdays, you do miss Christmas, and you miss piano recitals," Pinson said, "and maybe women are just more sensitive to that than men can be."

ACROSS THE NATION

Police blow Wash. mountain bunker, find man dead

NORTH BEND, Wash. (AP)—Peter Keller spent eight years carving his hole in the side of the mountain, camouflaging the rugged underground bunker with ferns and sticks and stocking it with a generator and ammunition boxes sealed in Ziploc bags. Suspected in the deaths of his wife, daughter and pets last weekend, he headed there prepared for the long haul with high-powered rifles, scope and body armor. Seattle-area tactical officers who slogged for hours over dangerously steep, muddy ground to find him were prepared too. They pumped in tear gas, called for him over bullhorns, and, after 22 hours, set off explosives along the top of the bunker Saturday.

1 dead after storm blows down St. Louis beer tent

ST. LOUIS (AP)—High winds swept through a beer tent where 200 people gathered after a Cardinals game Saturday, killing one and seriously injuring five others. But the owner of the St. Louis bar that hosted the crowd said it was lightning—not wind—that killed the patron. Seventeen were hospitalized and up to 100 people were treated at the scene after straight-line winds whipped through a large tent outside Kilroy's Sports Bar, near Busch Stadium. The crowd was celebrating after the Cardinals had beaten Milwaukee 7-3, a game that ended about 80 minutes earlier. Eddie Roth, director of the St. Louis Department of Public Safety, said winds of about 50 mph shattered aluminum poles that held up the tent, located south of the stadium. The force of the wind Saturday afternoon blew the tent onto an adjacent railroad bridge.

3 dead, 1 missing in mishap during yacht race

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three crew members of a sailboat were found dead and a fourth person was missing Saturday after they ran into trouble during a yacht race off the coasts of California and Mexico. The 37-foot Aegean was participating in the 125-mile Newport, Calif. to Ensenada, Mexico, yacht race when vessels near the Coronado Islands in Mexico reported seeing debris from the sailboat Saturday morning, Coast Guard Petty Officer Henry Dunphy said. By midafternoon, searchers found the bodies and debris from the Aegean, whose home port is Redondo Beach, Dunphy said.

Asia

Group: Blind Chinese activist under US protection

BEIJING (AP)—A blind legal activist who escaped house arrest in his Chinese village is under the protection of American officials, activists said Saturday, creating a diplomatic dilemma for the U.S. and China days ahead of a visit by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Chen Guangcheng, who has exposed forced abortions and sterilizations in villages as a result of China's one-child policy, fled from his guarded home a week ago in Shandong province in eastern China. Chinese-based activists say he was driven away by supporters and then handed over to others who brought him to Beijing.

The U.S. and Chinese governments have not confirmed reports that he was at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, which declined comment Saturday. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, originally due in Beijing next week, arrived early Sunday. He too did not comment to reporters.

A Texas-based activist group that has been promoting Chen's case said Saturday that he was in U.S. care and that Beijing and Washington were discussing the situation.

"Chen is under U.S. protection and high-level talks are currently under way between U.S. and Chinese officials regarding Chen's status," said a statement from the ChinaAid Association. The group said it was in contact with a person with knowledge of the situation.

AP

In this photo taken in late April, 2012, and provided by Hu Jia, blind Chinese legal activist Chen Guangcheng, left, meets with Hu at an undisclosed location.

Chen's whereabouts could be a major political complication for the two countries, with Clinton and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner due to arrive in China for strategic talks that begin Thursday on global economics and topics including the violence in Sudan and maritime claims in Asia's seas.

Chen's case comes as the United States is looking for help from China on many issues around the world, such as trying to restrain North Korea and Iran on their nuclear ambitions, and pushing Syria to observe a cease-fire in the fighting in that country. Bilateral disputes over trade, China's currency and U.S. relations with Taiwan are also issues that likely will be part of the strategic talks.

ChinaAid's founder, Bob Fu, said Chen's case was a benchmark for the United States and its human rights image around the world.

"Because of Chen's wide popularity, the Obama administration must stand firmly with him or risk losing credibility as a defender of freedom and the rule of law," he said in the statement.

"If there is a reason why Chinese dissidents revere the U.S., it is for a moment like this," Fu said.

Fu and Chinese-based activists say Chen slipped away from his closely guarded home on the night of April 22. His wife and 6-year-old daughter are still there.

Chen recorded a video as a direct address to Premier Wen Jiabao, condemning the treatment of him and his family and accusing local Communist Party officials by name. Activists sent the video Friday to the overseas Chinese news site Boxun.com, which posted part of it on YouTube.

Activist Hu Jia met with Chen after his escape and said people with Chen later called him. His wife later posted on Twitter a photo of Chen and Hu together in which the two men are smiling. Chen is wearing the same clothes seen in the video.

"They said, 'He is in a 100 percent safe place,'" Hu said. "If they say that, I know where that place is. There's only one 100 percent (safe) place in China, and that's the U.S. Embassy."

Hu's claim could not be verified. Police detained Hu for questioning Saturday afternoon and by early Sunday he had not been released, his wife, Zeng Jinyan, said on Twitter.

If Chen is in the U.S. Embassy or with U.S. officials at another location, it is not known how he would be able to leave or where he could go without Chinese permission.

Chen's escape, if ultimately successful, would boost a beleaguered civil rights community, which has faced rising arrests and other harassment over the past year.

In 1989, when Fang Lizhi, whose speeches inspired student protesters throughout the 1980s, fled with his wife to the U.S. Embassy after China's 1989 military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement, he was forced to stay there for 13 months while the countries discussed his fate.

Chen's case is more complicated because his wife and daughter are still in Shandong.

US raises hope of sale of new fighters to Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The administration of President Barack Obama is raising the possibility that it could sell new jet fighter aircraft to Taiwan to help redress the island's air power deficit with China.

If the move goes through, it would infuriate Beijing, which claims the democratic island as its territory and regards all foreign defense sales there as interference in its affairs.

China has 2,300 operational combat aircraft, against only 490 for Taiwan. In September, the U.S. turned down a Taiwanese request for 66 relatively advanced F-16 jet fighters, while agreeing to help Taiwan upgrade its existing F-16 fleet. Critics accused the White House of yielding to pressure from China.

China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949. Despite a marked improvement in relations over the past four years, China still threatens to attack across the 160-kilometer-wide (100-mile-wide) Taiwan Strait if Taiwan moves to make its de facto independence permanent.

The possible change in American policy came in a letter Friday from White House director of legislative affairs Rob Nabors to Republican Senator John Cornyn of Texas. The letter said that a newly appointed assistant secretary of defense for Asia and Pacific affairs would consider the matter of selling new U.S. warplanes to Taiwan.

"The assistant secretary ... will play a lead role as the administration decides on a near term course of action on how to address Taiwan's fighter gap, including through the sale to Taiwan of an undetermined number of U.S.-made fighter aircraft," Nabors wrote.

Cornyn had been holding up confirmation of the assistant secretary, Mark Lippert, but removed the hold after receiving Nabors' letter.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry welcomed Nabors' letter.

"We welcome and express our gratitude for any acts that may help elevate and strengthen our defense capabilities," the ministry said in a statement.

Any sale of new U.S. combat aircraft to Taiwan would infuriate China, which sees the Taiwan arms issue as the biggest irritant in relations with Washington. It criticizes any Taiwan arms sales in very harsh terms, and routinely suspends defense exchanges with the U.S. to protest them.

Nabors' letter did not specify which U.S. warplane might be sold to Taiwan. However, the Taiwanese have expressed an interest in the F-35, a 5th generation stealth fighter with ground attack and air defense capabilities.

The plane, which is not yet fully operational, is so far slated for inclusion in both the U.S. fighter arsenal and those of a number of close American allies, including Britain, Italy and the Netherlands.

Pakistan wants apology for US border killings

ISLAMABAD (AP)—American attempts to rebuild its relationship with Pakistan appear to be stuck on the issue of a U.S. apology for killing 24 Pakistani border troops last November.

U.S. officials visited Pakistan on Friday for talks on rebooting the relationship, but left without any agreement. A statement Saturday from the Pakistani president's office said Asif Ali Zardari told the visiting U.S. officials that Washington needed to help Pakistan reach "closure" over the killings of the soldiers on the Afghan border by following recommendations by the Pakistani parliament.

The parliament has asked Washington to apologize for the incident. The United States has expressed regret, but has declined to specifically say it is sorry.

Pakistan shut U.S. and NATO supply lines to Afghanistan to protest the deadly U.S. air strikes, cut most contacts with Washington and ordered American drone aircraft to leave a base in the south of the country. The U.S. wants Pakistan to reopen the supply lines, preferably ahead of a May 20-21 summit of NATO leaders in Chicago.

The Defense Department has said U.S. forces—given what information they had available to them at the time—reacted in self-defense and with appropriate force after being fired upon from the direction of the Pakistani border in the Nov. 26 incident.

The visit by Mark Grossman, who is Washington's envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, was his first to Pakistan since the November incident.

Pakistan used the border incident to try to extract better terms from Washington, which sees Pakistan as an essential—if unreliable—ally against al-Qaida and vital to the sustainability of any peace deal with insurgents fighting in neighboring Afghanistan.

The border deaths were the latest in a series of incidents over the last 18 months that severely damaged U.S.-Pakistani relations. The killing of two alleged Pakistani assailants by CIA security officer Ray Davis in Lahore in January 2011 and the U.S. Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in May, without Pakistani permission, also contributed to the decline.

ASIAN BRIEFS

7 killed as bus crashes on way to Tokyo Disneyland

TOKYO (AP)—A bus carrying dozens of holidaymakers has crashed on a highway while heading for Tokyo Disneyland, killing seven passengers. Police say the other 38 passengers and the 43-year-old driver were injured, 13 of them seriously, in the accident Sunday morning on a highway in Gunma, north of Tokyo. The bus crashed into a roadside wall, with steel wall panels slicing its body in half. Police are investigating the cause of the accident.

Manila says Chinese ship threatened its 2 vessels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines says a Chinese government ship has made dangerous maneuvers close to two Philippine coast guard vessels in a disputed shoal but that there was no collision. Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez says the Philippine vessels were not provoked by the "bullying" of the Chinese ship Saturday at the Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines, where the two countries have been locked in a tense standoff since April 10. Hernandez says the Chinese ship made two threatening passes near the Filipino vessels at about 20 knots, getting as close as 200 yards (183 meters) to one of the vessels before veering away and generating waves that lashed the two ships.

Philippines accepts bids for 5 energy contracts

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has accepted bids for five oil and gas exploration contracts, setting another tender in July for three other blocks between its western coast and the South China Sea despite China's claim to those areas. Energy Undersecretary Jay Layug says $7.5 billion dollars in investments are expected for 15 energy contracts being offered. He says accepted bids will be evaluated within 100 workings days and contracts will be awarded within the year. Layug says 38 companies prequalified. Bidding was opened Friday for 12 contracts. Only nine of 16 bids met requirements for five of the exploration blocks. Layug says three blocks northwest of Palawan Island up for bidding on July 31 are "the most prospective" and more bids are expected for those.

World

Syria derides UN chief as peace plan in crisis

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria derided U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon as biased and called his comments "outrageous" Saturday after he blamed the regime for widespread cease-fire violations—the latest sign of trouble for an international peace plan many expect to fail.

In new fighting Saturday, activists said regime forces battled army defectors near President Bashar Assad's summer palace in a coastal village and shelled a Damascus suburb in pursuit of gunmen. State media said government troops foiled an attempt by armed men in rubber boats to land on Syria's coast, the first reported attempt by rebels to infiltrate from the sea.

The regime's verbal attack on the U.N. secretary general raised new concerns that Assad is playing for time to avoid compliance with a plan that could eventually force him out of office.

Under special envoy Kofi Annan's six-point road map, a cease-fire is to be followed by the deployment of as many as 300 U.N. truce monitors and talks between Assad and the opposition on Syria's political future. The head of the observer team, Norwegian Maj. Gen. Robert Mood, is to arrive in Damascus on Sunday to assume command, said spokesman Neeraj Singh.

Annan's April 12 cease-fire deadline has been widely ignored. The regime continues to attack opposition strongholds, while rebel fighters keep targeting security forces with roadside bombs and shooting ambushes. Defying a major truce provision, the Syrian military failed to withdraw tanks and soldiers from the streets.

Ban and Annan have cited violations by both sides, but generally portrayed the regime as the main aggressor. On Friday, Ban said Syria's repression of civilians reached an "intolerable stage" and demanded that the regime "live up to its promises to the world." His comments came just hours after a suicide bombing the regime blamed on anti-government "terrorists" killed 10 people in Damascus.

An editorial Saturday in the state-run Tishrin newspaper said Ban has avoided discussing rebel violence in favor of "outrageous" statements against the Syrian government. The editorial said the international community has applied a double standard, ignoring "crimes and terrorist acts" against Syria and thus encouraging more violence, according to excerpts carried by the state-run news agency SANA.

Mass protests against Assad erupted in March 2011, but gradually turned into an insurgency in response to a violent regime crackdown. Assad's regime denies it faces a popular uprising, claiming it is being targeted by a foreign-led terrorist conspiracy.

Saturday's comments were the regime's harshest against the U.N. since Syria announced last month it would abide by the Annan plan. The Syrian opposition and its Western backers argue Assad is not sincere and just buying time to consolidate his hold on Syria.

The regime "wants to make the U.N. a party to the conflict, rather than a mediator, and to stretch out the process to prevent any kind of serious change," Rami Khoury, an analyst at the American University of Beirut, said of Saturday's editorial.

However, the regime and its supporters argue that the world intentionally ignores rebel cease-fire violations, such as targeted killings of security officials, said Peter Harling of the International Crisis Group think tank who has traveled in Syria.

"In the regime's narrative, its use of force is only a reaction to such assaults," he said. "Officials and sympathizers cling to the idea that they are fighting a legitimate struggle against a fifth column of extremists."

Russia, Syria's main ally, repeatedly has demanded that more attention be paid to rebel violations of the Annan plan.

In fighting Saturday, government troops exchanged fire with about 30 soldiers after they defected at a military base near Assad's summer palace in the coastal village of Burj Islam, according to Syria-based activist Mustafa Osso and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist group.

The shooting, described as intense, lasted for 15 to 30 minutes, the activists said.

Syrian troops also intercepted armed men trying to land on the Syrian coast in rubber boats, the Syrian news agency said. The agency said the navy forced the boats to flee, but some Syrian service members were killed or wounded. The battle took place 30 to 35 kilometers (about 20 miles) from the Turkish border, SANA said.

AP

The ship "Lutfallah II" believed to be carrying three containers of weapons, is docked at a Lebanese navy base, in Beirut, Lebanon, on Saturday April 28, 2012.

ElBaradei returns to Egypt politics with new party

CAIRO (AP)—Reform leader Mohamed ElBaradei launched a new political party Saturday that he said aims to unite Egyptians and save the country's revolution from a messy democratic transition.

The Constitution Party marks a return to public life for ElBaradei, who declared in January that he would not run for president and that a fair vote would be impossible during a muddled transition period.

His pullout four months before the start of the presidential vote dealt a blow to the liberal and leftist groups who were behind the Jan. 25 uprising that forced Hosni Mubarak out of office last year. The groups, many of whom had found in ElBaradei a rallying figure for their calls for democracy in Egypt, had been badly defeated at the ballot box in the first parliamentary elections after Mubarak.

Islamist groups, including the powerful Muslim Brotherhood and the popular ultraconservative Salafi groups, emerged as the biggest winner in those elections, capturing nearly 70 percent of the seats.

The young activists were also subjected to an escalating crackdown by the country's rulers, including referral to military trials, arrests and media smear campaigns.

"The aim of this party is to save the great Jan. 25 revolution, which has been derailed, and is almost aborted and to restore our unity," ElBaradei told a crowd of supporters and journalists. "When this revolution started we never imagined the conditions we are and the tragic transition we are living today."

ElBaradei, who received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency, said a new organized political group is necessary to unite Egyptians, and prepare the youth behind the uprising for a political future.

"We hope through this party... to start anew to build the country on the basis of democracy and justice," he said.

Fourteen months after Mubarak stepped down, the generals who took over are embroiled in a power struggle with the emerging Islamists. They dominate the parliament but complain the generals are obstructing them. Many of their rivals complain the Islamists are overreaching.

The presidential elections due to start on May 23 have been marred by the disqualification of 10 candidates, including three front-runners, and legal disputes.

In a major setback to the Brotherhood's bid for presidency, one of Egypt's most popular ultraconservative Salafi group, the Dawa Salafiya and its political arm Al-Nour party said they will back moderate Islamist, Abdel-Moneim Abolfotoh. He is also popular among some liberals and youth groups who launched the uprising.

Israeli ex-intel chief slams PM's Iran stance

JERUSALEM (AP)—The former head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency has accused the country's political leaders of exaggerating the effectiveness of a possible military attack on Iran, in a striking indication of Israel's turmoil over how to deal with the Iranian nuclear program.

Yuval Diskin said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak—who have been saber-rattling for months—have their judgment clouded by "messianic feelings" and should not be trusted to lead policy on Iran. Diskin, who headed Shin Bet until last year, said a strike might actually accelerate the Iranian program.

Shin Bet addresses security in Israel and the Palestinian Territories only and is not involved in international affairs.

Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. Israel, like the West, believes that Tehran is developing weapons technology, but there is intense debate over whether international economic sanctions accompanying the current round of negotiations might prevent Iran from developing a bomb, or whether at some point a military strike should be launched.

Diskin's comments deepened the sense that a rift is growing between the hawkish Netanyahu government and the security establishment over the question of a strike—and Netanyahu allies quickly rushed to his defense.

In Israel, security figures carry clout well into retirement. Although they frequently pursue political careers, Diskin had been seen as relatively apolitical, perhaps lending his words even greater weight.

"I don't have faith in the current leadership of Israel to lead us to an event of this magnitude, of war with Iran," Diskin said at a public meeting Friday, video of which was posted on the Internet the next day and quickly became the lead news item in Israel.

"I do not believe in a leadership that makes decisions based on Messianic feelings," he continued. "I have seen them up close. They are not messiahs, these two, and they are not the people that I personally trust to lead Israel into such an event."

Diskin said it was possible that "one of the results of an Israel attack on Iran could be a dramatic acceleration of the Iran program. ... They will have legitimacy to do it more quickly and in a shorter timeframe."

Several members of Netanyahu's coalition issued statements questioning Diskin's motives and suggesting that in effect he had allied himself with Israel's dovish opposition.

The prime minister's office called the former Shin Bet chief's remarks "irresponsible," while Barak's office accused Diskin of "acting in a petty and irresponsible way based on personal frustration" and "damaging the tradition of generations of Shin Bet leaders."

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman also took a swipe at Diskin.

"If you do not trust the prime minister and not the defense minister, you should have resigned and not waited for the end of your term," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Colombia: French journalist missing, 4 killed

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A French journalist was missing early Sunday along with five Colombian security force members following combat with leftist rebels that claimed the lives of three soldiers and a police officer, Colombia's Defense Ministry said. It identified the missing journalist as Romeo Langlois, whose has worked for media including the Paris newspaper Le Figaro, and said he was accompanying troops on a counter-drug mission in the southern state of Caqueta. In a statement, the ministry said four soldiers were also wounded in what it called "heavy combat" with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, during an operation by Counternarcotics Batallion No. 1 that destroyed five cocaine processing labs.

Large van bomb defused on Northern Ireland border

DUBLIN (AP)—British army experts defused a 600-pound (275-kilogram) van bomb Saturday on the Northern Ireland border, the largest such bomb in more than a year linked to Irish Republican Army die-hards. British army experts defused the homemade bomb two days after a passing motorist told police about the abandoned van on a border road near the predominantly Catholic town of Newry, a hub for IRA activity. Police and soldiers took more than a day to search the surrounding area, fearful of a potential IRA ambush, before moving in. Newry's police commander, Chief Superintendent Alasdair Robinson, said the bomb was "a very significant device. If this had exploded, it would have caused devastation."

Health & Fitness

Add kidneys to list of things that can be recycled

LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—It turns out you can recycle just about anything these days—even kidneys and other organs donated for transplants.

Recently in Chicago, in what is believed to be the first documented case of its kind in the U.S., a transplanted kidney that was failing was removed from a patient while he was still alive and given to somebody else.

There have been other cases since the 1980s of transplant organs being used more than once, but they were rare and involved instances in which the first recipient died.

Typically when transplanted organs fail in living patients, doctors throw them away. But with more than 73,000 people awaiting transplants nationwide, some specialists say doctors should consider trying to reuse more organs to ease the severe shortage.

"The need for kidney transplantation doesn't match our capacity," said Dr. Lorenzo Gallon, a Northwestern University transplant specialist who oversaw the kidney recycling operation in Chicago. "People die on dialysis" while awaiting kidneys.

AP

This photo taken and provided Wednesday, April 25, 2012, by Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, shows Cera Fearing, right, her brother, Ray Fearing, center, of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Erwin Gomez, three patients involved in an unusual kidney retransplant, case after they met for the first time at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

That was the possible fate awaiting two strangers. A research letter describing the unusual case was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The donated kidney lasted just two weeks in the first patient, a 27-year-old Illinois man. The same disease that ruined his kidneys started to damage the new kidney, given to him by his sister. He was getting sicker, and doctors needed to act fast if they were going to save the organ. With permission from the man and his sister, they removed it last July and retransplanted it into a 67-year-old Indiana man.

The Illinois man is back on dialysis and will probably get another transplant eventually.

Still, reusing a transplanted organ can be tricky—and riskier—because surgeons have to deal with scar tissue that typically forms around an organ as the body heals from the operation.

Also, Wayne Shelton, a bioethicist at Albany Medical College in New York, said the practice may raise ethical questions. He said doctors need to make sure patients who are offered reused parts understand all the risks and are not made to feel coerced into accepting such organs. And because these cases are so rare, there is little data on how patients with recycled parts fare, Shelton noted.

ON THE NET

- New England Journal of Medicine: http://www.nejm.org
- Organ donation: http://www.unos.org

Dr. Jonathan Bromberg, director of transplantation at the University of Maryland Medical Center, praised the Northwestern doctors but said organ recycling is unlikely to become commonplace because it would be rare for an already transplanted organ to be healthy enough to be reused.

In Boston in 2009, a man died shortly after a getting a new heart, and the organ was in good enough shape to be transplanted into someone else. A 2005 medical journal report detailed three U.S. cases involving donor livers reused after the initial recipients died, and said they were among 11 similar cases between 1987 and 2005. Medical literature also includes reports from the 1990s about a kidney retransplant in Spain and a heart retransplant in Switzerland.

In the Chicago case, Ray Fearing of Arlington Heights, Ill., received a new kidney that was later reused by Erwin Gomez of Valparaiso, Ind., a surgeon familiar with the medical complexities involved.

Joel Newman, a spokesman for the United Network for Organ Sharing, said previous retransplants in the U.S. "have occurred when the original recipient has died soon after a transplant but the organ is still able to function. To our knowledge, this is the first publicly reported instance where a kidney has been removed from a living person due to the risk of organ failure and retransplanted."

Cancer survivors urged to eat better, exercise

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—A cancer diagnosis often inspires people to exercise and eat healthier. Now the experts say there's strong evidence that both habits may help prevent the disease from coming back.

New guidelines issued Thursday by the American Cancer Society urge doctors to talk to their cancer patients about eating right, exercising and slimming down if they're too heavy.

That's not something most doctors do, said Dr. Omer Kucuk, an Emory University oncologist who has researched the effect of nutrition on prostate cancer. They're focused on surgery, chemotherapy or other treatments for their patients, he added.

"Usually the last thing on their mind is to talk about diet and exercise," Kucuk said.

Cancer society officials have long encouraged healthy eating and exercise as a way to prevent certain cancers. They and others have tried to spread that gospel to cancer survivors as well. Indeed, the cancer society has a certification program for fitness professionals who work with cancer survivors.

But until now, the group didn't think there was enough research to support a strong statement for cancer survivors.

Hastine Reese, a breast cancer survivor, says she began to exercise because her husband—not her doctor—pushed her. Besides being good for her health, he thought it might help pull her out of the depression that followed her diagnosis and double-mastectomy.

"When you're first diagnosed with cancer, you go into a dark place," said Reese, as she finished a one-hour exercise class this week at DeKalb Medical Center in Decatur, Ga.

Exercise has changed that. "I'm coming into the light, and it's getting brighter and brighter," she said.

ON THE NET

American Cancer Society: http://www.cancer.org/

Being overweight or obese has long been tied to an increased risk of several types of cancer, including cancers of the colon, esophagus, kidney, pancreas and—in postmenopausal women—breast. But there hadn't been much evidence on the effects of diet and exercise for people who had had cancer.

The last five years saw more than 100 studies involving cancer survivors, many of them showing that exercise and/or a healthy diet was associated with lower cancer recurrence rates and longer survival.

Most of the research was on breast, prostate and colorectal cancer. The evidence is more meager when it comes to other cancers, including the deadliest kind, lung cancer. Also, most of the work involved observational studies, which can't prove a cause and effect. Still, the volume of research was compelling.

"We've got enough data now to make these recommendations," said Colleen Doyle, the organization's director of nutrition and physical activity.

At least two other medical groups have strongly recommended exercise and healthier eating for cancer survivors, but the cancer society's new guidelines are expected to have much greater impact. It's the nation's largest cancer charity in both donations and the number of volunteers, and it funds more cancer research than any other non-governmental agency.

There was a time when cancer patients were thought of as gaunt and dying souls. Many cancers were diagnosed at a late stage, after the disease had ravaged the body and caused weight loss.

But better screening and treatment has made early diagnosis of cancer more common and survival more likely. Today, more than two-thirds of cancer patients live at least five years. The ranks of cancer survivors have grown, with more than 12 million Americans identified as cancer survivors.

Meanwhile, obesity has boomed. More than two-thirds of U.S. adults are now considered overweight or obese.

The guidelines recognize that for some people just eating enough food is a priority, and that diet advice can vary during treatment. The cancer society also notes that some people may be too weak at times for vigorous exercise. But experts say that even modest activities, like lifting soup cans while watching TV, can help.

Women seem to take to exercise and diet recommendations more readily than men, or to push their spouses to follow the advice, some doctors said. Most of Reese's classmates were women.

"I find women to be very, very proactive," said Dr. Allen Lawhead, a gynecologic oncologist at DeKalb Medical Center. "Men, we traditionally go back into our man cave and hide."

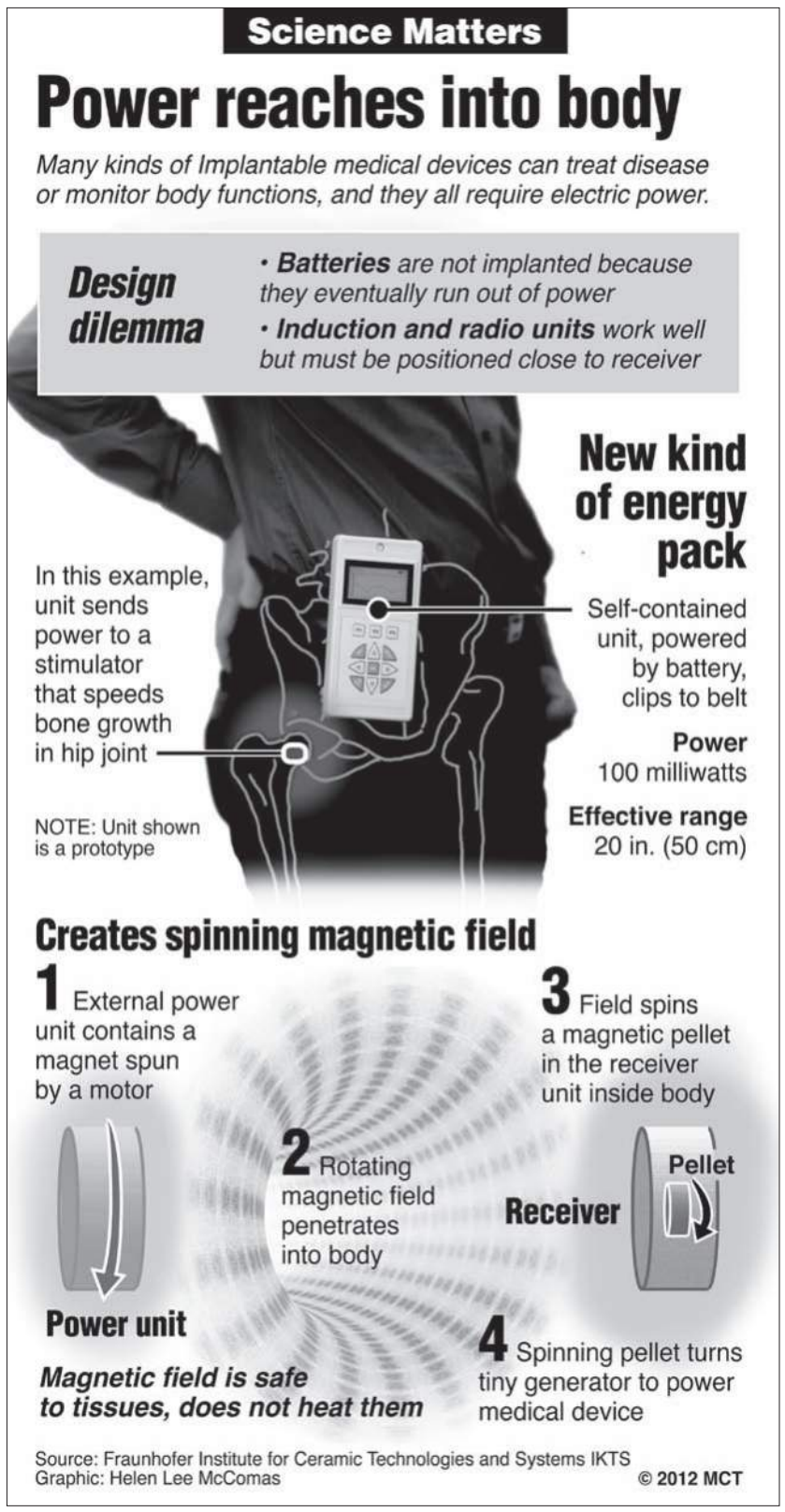
Lawrence Genter, a survivor of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, was one of three men in Reese's class of about a dozen. "I'm here because of my wife," he said.

For another cancer survivor, exercise came easy but eating healthy was a challenge. During chemotherapy, nausea is common and food can seem unappetizing.

"The key thing is to eat period—whatever you can get down and keep down," said Bob Falkenberg of Alpharetta, Ga., who was a marathoner and long-distance cyclist before he was diagnosed with leukemia.

What did he eat during chemo? Mexican food. Hamburgers.

"I had people bring in pizza at one point," he laughed.


Science Matters
Power reaches into body
Many kinds of Implantable medical devices can treat disease or monitor body functions, and they all require electric power.
Design dilemma
• Batteries are not implanted because they eventually run out of power
• Induction and radio units work well but must be positioned close to receiver
New kind of energy pack
In this example, unit sends power to a stimulator that speeds bone growth in hip joint
Self-contained unit, powered by battery, clips to belt
Power
100 milliwatts
Effective range
20 in. (50 cm)
NOTE: Unit shown is a prototype
Creates spinning magnetic field
1 External power unit contains a magnet spun by a motor
2 Rotating magnetic field penetrates into body
3 Field spins a magnetic pellet in the receiver unit inside body
Receiver
Pellet
Power unit
Magnetic field is safe to tissues, does not heat them
4 Spinning pellet turns tiny generator to power medical device
Source: Fraunhofer Institute for Ceramic Technologies and Systems IKTS
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas
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Life & Style

Romney, Secret Service, GOP: Obama mocks them all

AP

President Barack Obama high-fives late-night comic Jimmy Kimmel as Caren Bohan, a Reuters journalist and president of the White House Correspondents' Association, looks on during the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, Saturday, April 28, 2012 in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—This year's primaries, the 2008 primaries, the General Services Administration scandal, even the Secret Service and Donald Trump were targets for President Barack Obama's scattershot humor at Saturday night's celebrity studded White House Correspondents Dinner.

Even the entrance to his speech was part of his schtick. The president walked off stage just before he took the podium with an alleged "hot mic," making fun of getting caught last month on an open microphone with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

"What am I doing here," he asks off stage. "I'm opening for Jimmy Kimmel and telling knock-knock jokes to Kim Kardashian."

Once on stage, the president revisited last year's dinner, which took place as Navy SEALS were dispatched to capture and kill Osama bin Laden.

"Last year at this time, this very weekend, we finally delivered justice to one of the world's most notorious individuals," Obama said. Then a picture of real estate mogul Donald Trump appeared on the room's television monitors. The president last year delivered a scathing roast of Trump, who flirted with running for the Republican nomination and claimed he had solved the "mystery" of Obama's birth certificate.

Obama also took a shot at the Republican congressional leadership, whom he thanked "for taking time from their exhausting schedule of not passing any laws" to attend the dinner.

Four years ago, Obama recalled, he was locked in a tough primary fight with Hillary Rodham Clinton, now his secretary of state. "She can't stop drunk texting me from Cartagena," he said, referring to their recent trip to the Summit of the Americas in Colombia, where Clinton was photographed drinking a beer and dancing.

This year, Obama is the incumbent, but the dinner was far from a campaign-free zone. The president pointed out his similarities with the presumed Republican nominee, Mitt Romney.

"We both think of our wives as our better halves, and the American people agree to an insulting extent," the president said.

"We both have degrees from Harvard. I have one, he has two. What a snob."

The crack drew a thumbs-up from former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who was in the audience. Santorum dropped out of the presidential primary campaign earlier this month. He had called Obama a snob for encouraging young Americans to attend college.

But Obama touched on serious themes as well, remembering *The New York Times*' Anthony Shadid and Marie Colvin of the *Sunday Times* of London who died while covering the uprising in Syria.

"Never forget that our country depends on you to help protect our freedom, our democracy and our way of life," Obama said.

Then he returned to the lighter side: "I have to get the Secret Service home in time for their new curfew."

Kimmel, the night's featured entertainer, picked up on the Secret Service prostitution scandal in Colombia, saying he told the Secret Service that for $800 he wouldn't joke about them, "but they only offered 30."

"If this had happened on President Clinton's watch, you can damn well bet those Secret Service agents would have been disciplined with a very serious high five," Kimmel said.

Kimmel later asked Obama: "You remember when the country rallied around you in hopes of a better tomorrow? That was hilarious."

"There's a term for guys like President Obama," Kimmel said with a pause. "Probably not two terms."

Among the eclectic crowd attending Saturday night's dinner were former Secretary of State Colin Powell, the cast of the hit TV show "Modern Family," actress Lindsey Lohan, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., actor George Clooney and director Steven Spielberg.

Proceeds from the dinner go toward scholarships for aspiring journalists and awards for distinction in the profession.

The association was formed in 1914 as a liaison between the press and the president. Every president since Calvin Coolidge has attended the dinner.

Several journalists were also honored at the dinner:

■ Matt Apuzzo, Adam Goldman, Eileen Sullivan and Chris Hawley of The Associated Press, for winning the Edgar A. Poe Award for their stories about the New York City Police Department's widespread surveillance of Muslims after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. It's the fourth major prize for the series, which has also won the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting, the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting and a George Polk Award.

■ ABC's Jake Tapper and Politico's Glenn Thrush, Carrie Budoff Brown, Manu Raju and John Bresnahan, for winning the Merriman Smith Award for excellence in presidential coverage under pressure. Tapper won in the broadcast category for breaking the news that rating agency Standard & Poor's was on the verge of downgrading the federal government's triple-A credit rating because of concerns over political gridlock in Washington. In the print category, Thrush, Budoff Brown, Raju and Bresnahan of *Politico* won for their report on the deal between Obama and congressional Republicans to raise the U.S. debt ceiling.

■ Scott Wilson, of *The Washington Post*, for winning the Aldo Beckman award. Wilson was recognized for his "deeply reported and nuanced stories, his evocative writing and his clear presentation of complex issues, particularly on the foreign policy front."

Louis Armstrong's last trumpet recording now a CD

By BRETT ZONGKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) —A live recording of Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong playing his trumpet for one of the last times is being released to the public for the first time.

On Jan., 29, 1971, Armstrong was a featured performer at the National Press Club in Washington, celebrating the inauguration of fellow Louisiana native Vernon Louviere as the club's president. On Friday, Armstrong's performance was played back in the same place for musicians, historians and some who were there for the original performance.

The new album is called "Red Beans and Rice-ly Yours: Satchmo at the National Press Club."

Amy Louviere, who was 11 when Armstrong played for her father's inauguration at the club, recalled the audience's delight when he pulled out his horn 41 years ago. Later Armstrong made her say "spaghetti" to get her to smile for a picture, she said.

"He just captured the audience," she said. "They were thrilled."

Looking back, the performance was Armstrong's goodbye in many ways. It was the last recording made of him performing live that was meant to be played back some day. His only later performances on trumpet were quick TV snippets with Dick Cavett and Johnny Carson.

His health had been suffering for years after a heart attack and trouble with his kidneys. Armstrong stayed home resting for much of 1969 and 1970, according to Ricky Riccardi, the archivist for the Louis Armstrong House Museum in New York and author of "What a Wonderful World: The Magic of Louis Armstrong's Later Years."

He felt strong enough, though, to make a comeback with a few short performances in Las Vegas and then in Washington. That's when he surprised the crowd—which included such politicians as Hale Boggs and George Romney—by pulling out his trumpet for tunes like "Hello Dolly" and signing his autobiography with "Boy From New Orleans."

Armstrong died less than six months later on July 6, 1971.

"He had such a love of performing," Riccardi said. "He had been off the scene for so long that I think he cherished any opportunity to get in front of an audience if he was feeling up to it."

His doctors tried to pace him. Riccardi found a letter from Armstrong to his physicians not long before the press club concert where he complained of having shortness of breath. It was becoming too much for him.

Armstrong told fellow musicians that the best way to die would be to die on stage. By 1971, he was thin and ashen—still telling great stories, but a little of his spark is gone, Riccardi said.

His performance in Washington, though, sounded as good as ever and better than some of his material from the year before, Riccardi said. And the audience knew this was a special moment.

"To me it's just one last little testament of Armstrong and his audiences connecting. ... This is really our last glimpse of Louis on stage, doing what he did best," Riccardi said.

"The solo he plays on Hello Dolly is a knockout. It's one of my favorites," he said. "But it's with the knowledge that this was basically a dying man playing this beautiful song."

In Loving Memory Of
Neveah Shanae Sablan Casil
Lovingly known as "Nae-Nae"
In her new life, she now joins her:
Grandfather: Gregorio S. Sablan
Cousin Antonio "JunJun S. Sablan
Great Grandparents: Rosa Q. Casil & Sammy L. Engoy
Aunties: Xylina C. Camacho & Angel C. Camacho
Great Grandparents: Ana J. Duenas & Enrique A. Duenas
Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Parents: Anthony Jay Casil & Sharlyn M. Sablan
Grandparents: Gina M. Sablan & Joselito L. Bocago
Katherine Q. Casil & Anthony Joe Duenas
Aunties & Uncles (Maternal):
Shelly M. Sablan
George Peter M. Sablan
Faith Christelle M. Bocago
Rita S. & Juan Diego T. Celis & Family
Edward & Lucy S. Sablan & Family
Ramon & Lucy I. Sablan & Family
Antonio M. Sablan & Family
Antonia S. & Serafin Tudela & Family
Donald & Mary Sablan & Family
Aunties & Uncles (Paternal):
Sherlynn M. Casil & Family
Sharlene & Matthew Kisa & Family
Stephanie Jo C. Camacho
Sibling: Jose Azaiah Maratita
On May 2, 2012, her remains will be escorted from CHC to Borja Funeral Homes.
Viewing and last respects will be held starting at 8:00am.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by the interment service at CK Cemetery.
Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you very much.
From The Family

Lawsuit brings attention to 'The Bachelor' and race

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert Galinsky is skeptical about claims by producers of ABC's "The Bachelor" that they've had a hard time finding black singles willing to be on the show.

Back when he was an acting teacher, Galinsky's students were predominantly white. But now that he tries to help people break into show business as operator of the New York Reality TV School, about half of his students are racial minorities.

The nearly all-white racial makeup of "The Bachelor" (and its spinoff, "The Bachelorette") has simmered as an issue for years. Now it's the focus of a lawsuit filed last week by two black men from Nashville, Tenn., who say they were given little consideration when they tried to get on the show.

Through 16 seasons, all of the men given star billing to search for a mate were white. Same with the women in the seven seasons of "The Bachelorette." Two Hispanic contestants have been selected winners; the rest were all white.

The pattern extends to the pool of would-be mates, even when producers were aware critics were talking about the issue. None of the women vying for the bachelor's hand during the past four seasons were black, and one was in Season 12. That's one black woman out of 130, according to a review of the casts posted online.

"These shows have been very intentional in the gender and race stereotypes that they've created," said Jennifer Pozner, author of "Reality Bites Back: The Troubling Truth About Guilty Pleasure TV.

"It would be very, very difficult for people of color to miss the message that not only is this show not meant for you, but we as producers of `The Bachelor' do not want you to see yourself in a romantic starring role. You don't get to play prince and princess. You don't get to fantasize about love," said Pozner, a media critic who has questioned the show's racial makeup since its first season.

One of the Nashville men who sued, 26-year-old teacher Christopher Johnson, said he was stopped immediately when he went to a casting call for "The Bachelor" and asked what he was doing there. He said he was told to hand in materials, and never got a call-back or tryout.

Warner Horizon Television, which produces the series, called the complaint "baseless and without merit." The company said producers "have been consistently—and publicly—vocal about seeking diverse candidates for both programs."

The lawsuit quotes Michael Fleiss, creator of the series, telling "Entertainment Weekly" that "we always want to cast for ethnic diversity. It's just that for whatever reason, they don't come forward. I wish they would."

Galinsky said he believed there's little concern about diversity within the network unless it helps make money.

"Once you have a good thing going in this industry, you don't want to mess up the formula," he said.

The lawsuit points out that dating shows with diverse casts like "Flavor of Love" and "I Love New York" demonstrate proven interest among blacks in these shows. Other popular reality series, including "Survivor," "Dancing With the Stars" and "American Idol," seem to have no trouble achieving a diverse cast.

On the face of it, ABC would not seem to have a fear of interracial relationships. One of its dramas, "Scandal," features a white president who has an affair with a black woman.

There would also seem to be few societal barriers. A Pew Research Center study released in February found about 83 percent of Americans say it is "all right for blacks and whites to date each other," and about 63 percent said they'd be fine with it if a family member married outside their race.

But resistance grew with age, according to the survey. Only 55 percent of whites aged 50 to 64 expressed acceptance of a mixed-race marriage in the family. Acceptance dropped to 38 percent among whites aged 65 and over.

The median age of a typical viewer of "The Bachelor" is just over 50, the Nielsen company said.

Perhaps reflecting what they see on the screen, the show's audience is overwhelmingly white: 88 percent of "The Bachelor" viewers this season were white, with 11 percent black or Hispanic. Viewership for the typical prime-time network show is 74 percent white, Nielsen said.

Those numbers have been consistent: The audience for the debut season of "The Bachelor" in 2002 was 90 percent white.

Eric Deggans, a media critic for the Tampa Bay Times who has also written about the issue, noted that casting a minority bachelor would raise questions for the show: Would that white audience feel excluded if mostly minority women are brought on to try and strike up a relationship? Would people object to seeing a bachelor date many women outside his race?

"It's been my experience that TV executives are pretty cynical about how TV audiences react to race," Deggans wrote. "And the last thing ABC wants is a cycle of `The Bachelor,' topped by a minority male, where audiences watch less and less, providing an embarrassing display and hobbling a key franchise."

Posner said that she believed many of the show's advertisers, both traditional and through product placement, prefer to see a primarily white audience and will pay more to get access to it.

Mo. woman wins $5.8M in 'Girls Gone Wild' case

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The company that makes "Girls Gone Wild" DVDs is seeking to overturn a verdict awarding nearly $6 million to a St. Louis-area woman who claims her bare breasts were recorded without permission.

St. Louis Circuit Judge John Garvey last month sided with Tamara Favazza in her suit against Mantra Films Inc. and MRA Holdings LLC, awarding her $5.77 million. She was a 20-year-old college student in 2005 when someone lifted her tank top during a party at a St. Louis bar, exposing her breasts. Another person filmed it. She later discovered the recording was part of the "Girls Gone Wild Sorority Orgy" DVD series.

Favazza claimed in the suit originally filed in 2008 that she did not give consent and the resulting DVD damaged her reputation. A St. Louis jury sided with the DVD makers in 2010, but a retrial was granted.

Garvey issued his ruling on March 5. On Wednesday, the defendants filed motions asking that the judgment be set aside and a new trial granted.

Jeffrey Medler, an attorney for Favazza, said he will "vigorously oppose" any effort to overturn the ruling.

Several messages left with David Dalton, the last listed attorney for Mantra Films and MRA Holdings were not returned. Phone calls to Mantra Films' office in California went unanswered.

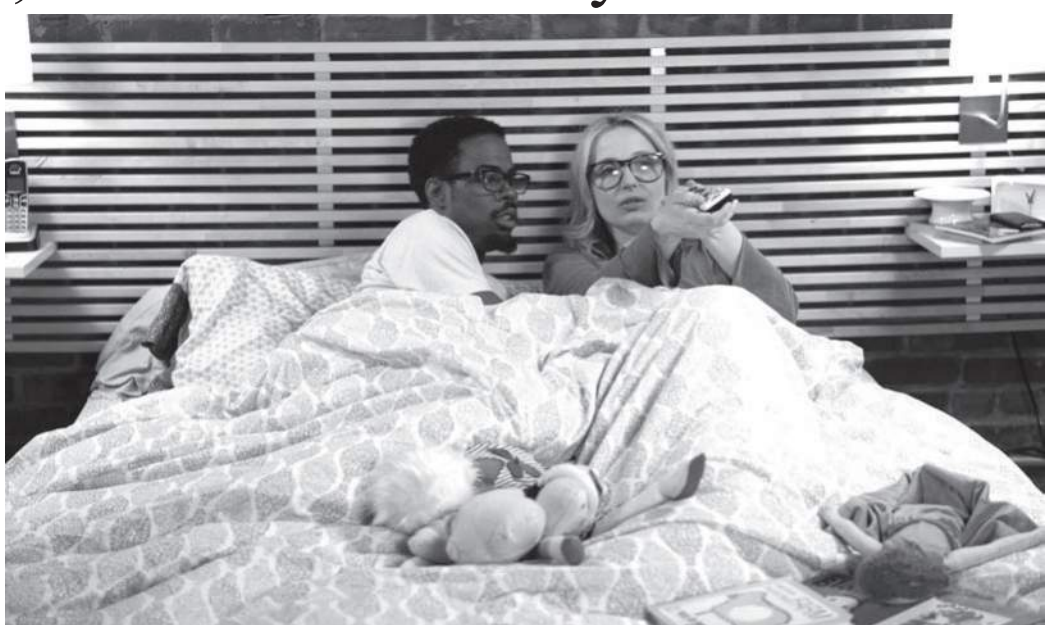
"Girls Gone Wild" videos and DVDs, featuring young women exposing themselves on camera, have made a fortune for founder Joe Francis. But he has been targeted with dozens of lawsuits from women who said they were upset at being filmed. Francis was originally named in Favazza's suit but was dismissed from the case in 2009.

The video was made at a bar then known as the Rum Jungle near the St. Louis riverfront. Earlier court testimony indicated that a woman acting as a contractor for "Girls Gone Wild" pulled down Favazza's shirt at the shoulder strap, exposing her breasts.

Favazza, now a 26-year-old wife and mother, claimed that she only became aware of her appearance in the video when a friend of her husband pointed it out. She sued soon after learning she was in the video.

Q&A: Delpy, Rock discuss '2 Days in New York'

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER



AP

In this film image released by the Tribeca Film Festival, Chris Rock, left, and Julie Delpy are shown in a scene from "2 Days in New York," a film that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival on Thursday, April 26, 2012 in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—After Julie Delpy carefully slides the hem of her black dress just over the knee, her co-star Chris Rock playfully slides it back an inch.

The two obviously share an ease with one another after having played a couple in Delpy's new film, "2 Days in New York." It's a sequel to her acclaimed 2007 film, "2 Days in Paris," in which Adam Goldberg played the American boyfriend of Delpy's Parisian character, a photographer named Marion.

She's now shifted the story across the Atlantic and later a few years. Marion lives with radio talk show host Mingus (Rock) and their children. But when Marion's family comes to visit from Paris (including her mischievous father, played by Delpy's real father, Albert Delpy), the farce of Franco-American culture clash resumes.

It's the third feature directed by Delpy, the actress of Kryzsztof Kieslowski's "Three Colors" trilogy and "Before Sunrise." (She also co-wrote it with Alexia Landeau.) For Rock, it's another unlikely French connection, following his 2007 remake of an Eric Rohmer film in "I Think I Love My Wife."

They sat down for an interview ahead of the film's Tribeca Film Festival premiere to discuss "2 Days in New York," which opens in theaters August 10.

AP: How did you two get together for this?

Delpy: I was a hooker.

Rock: Innocent enough!

Delpy: When I started writing a sequel to the film, I thought of Chris right away. I've always loved his standup work and I've always loved his work.

Rock: Love her as an actress, love her as a director, thought she was hot. You got to kind of want to f--- people you work with. (Both laugh) It's always a little better if you're a little attracted.

Delpy: You like Adam Sandler? Is he your type? ... I thought you liked my talent as an auteur!

AP: You've both have carved filmmaking careers outside of what you're best known for, whether stand-up or acting.

Delpy: He directed a film that I saw that I really liked ("I Think I Love My Wife"). To me, it's interesting to work with someone—even outside of his great talent as a stand-up and stuff—that he has other poles of interest. I do relate to that. Yes, I could just be acting, which is a horrible life, by the way. Just waiting for a part. When I was 16, I wrote my first screenplay. Of course, it took me years to make my first film.

AP: Chris, aside from stand-up, you've been acting on Broadway ("Motherf----- With the Hat"), directing (the documentary "Good Hair") and producing (the TV show "Everybody Hates Chris"). How do you compartmentalize the various projects?

Rock: Everything falls under comedy. It's not like I'm doing a funny movie and then going to paint. In a weird way, they're all related. With all of them, eventually I'm going to have to figure out what the f--- is funny about this. If I'm on Broadway or I'm doing a documentary about hair, it's like: What the hell is funny? How do I get to the funny here?

AP: How scripted was this film? Both of the "2 Days" movies have a naturalistic feel of controlled chaos.

Delpy: It's pretty scripted. But I hate when people say a line and they feel it's not their line, so I'll go rewrite a scene if I need to, ten minutes before. I hate when it feels acted. I hate to see the performance acting—when you see the actor acting. I don't like that kind of acting. That's why I loved (Robert) Altman so much.

AP: These two films made me think of him.

Delpy: Altman is like my top, one of my favorite directors. It seems painless, flawless.

Rock: I was supposed to be in his last one. (Delpy gasps) "Hands on a Hard Body." We were talking a lot, working on this character and he died. That's the story of my career. I always meet the head of the studio the day before he gets fired.

AP: Is it chaotic creating that Altman-esque atmosphere, especially being both in front of the camera and behind?

Delpy: Not at all. It's sometimes chaotic in the pace because I'm very quick in shooting. I push people around a little bit. Obviously when you're filming, you can't have people talking on top of each other because you can't edit it. So basically you shoot one part and then you shoot another part and then you make it feel like it's all messy and chaotic. It's kind of like a choreography.

AP: Both of these films are largely about the trials of loving someone. It reminds me, Chris, of your great stand-up line: "You're either married and bored or single and lonely. Ain't no happiness nowhere."

Rock: It's pretty much what life boils down to.

Delpy: It's so depressing. (Both laugh) Life is miserable.

Rock: If you're paying attention.

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon renew vows

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon say "I do"—again.

A publicist for the pair says they renewed their vows Friday at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

Spokeswoman Cindi Berger said the couple celebrated with an "intimate ceremony after a romantic dinner at the beautiful Jules Verne restaurant" just after midnight local time.

Carey, 42, and Cannon, 31, married in the Bahamas in 2008 after a whirlwind romance that began just months earlier. Carey gave birth to their twins, son and daughter Moroccan and Monroe, last April.

Cannon was hospitalized in January and later diagnosed with inflammation of the kidneys. He resigned from his New York City radio show in February to help his recovery. Earlier this month, he said he'd document his return to health on his website in a show called "NCredible Health Hustle." ***(AP)***

AP

U.S singer Mariah Carey, left, and her husband Nick Cannon pose in Paris, for the renewal of their wedding vows, Friday, April 27, 2012.

Celebs recall early film favorites at CinemaCon

By MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—This week, Sin City looked a bit more like Tinseltown, as some 5000 folks from virtually all walks of the film universe gathered for the theater operators' convention known as CinemaCon.

Among attendees were dozens of major and emerging movie stars who like to meet and greet exhibitors in hopes of getting their new releases into more cineplexes.

Actor-musician Tyrese Gibson of "Transformer" fame was there for another reason—to mentor eight student filmmakers with dreams of getting their own films shown on the big screen.

Oddly enough, Gibson's first cinema memory came not in a cinema but at home, on videotape. "I don't remember going to the theater," he said at the theater operators' closing-night gala. But he noted his first favorites on VHS were "Back to the Future" (1985) and "Ghost Busters" (1984). "These were, some way, somehow, the only two VHS tapes that we had in our house. So, I must have seen `Back to the Future' over 150 times. We knew all the words to both the movies."

Actor Taylor Kitsch, who appears in May's "Battleship," also cited "Future" as "the first movie that I saw in a cinema that really knocked me out," he said. "You were taken away. It was done so well, especially at the time. And that's what movies do. That's what it's about. Escape."

Actress Jennifer Garner, pushing August's Disney family dramedy "The Odd Life of Timothy Green," recalled going to the theater to see the Lily Tomlin comedy, "The Incredible Shrinking Woman" (1981). "It was such a big deal that we went," recalled Garner. "It was my older sister's birthday, and I got to tag along. . I thought it was the coolest thing I'd ever seen in my life."

"The Lion King" (1994) was the first film fave for Diego Boneta of the June musical "Rock of Ages." "Until this day, I always cry when (the father) Mufasa dies, and my favorite animal is a lion and I wish I could be (the cub who would be king) Simba."

"One of the movies that I watched over and over was `Space Jam' (1996), the cartoon movie with Michael Jordan in it," remembered Josh Hutcherson of the "Hunger Games." "And I think the movie that changed how I viewed movies was `Fight Club' (1999). It just blew my mind. It's a big leap, from `Space Jam' to `Fight Club,' but just bear with me on that."

Anna Faris of May's "The Dictator" said, "My mom took me to the movies to see `Annie' (1982) when I was 4 or 5. And she bought me some candy, those candy orange segments, which were amazing. I remember being terrified at (Carol Burnett's villainous) Miss Hannigan, and then later on I came to admire her very much," Faris added, with a sinister smile.

"I never saw it in a theater until my 13th birthday," said Chloe Grace of the forthcoming "Dark Shadows." "But it's the movie that struck me the most, as a young girl and as an actress, `Breakfast at Tiffany's' (1961), because I saw Audrey Hepburn on the screen, and you wanted to be in her world, you wanted to be beside her. You wanted to be walking down Fifth Avenue with her, sharing that croissant."

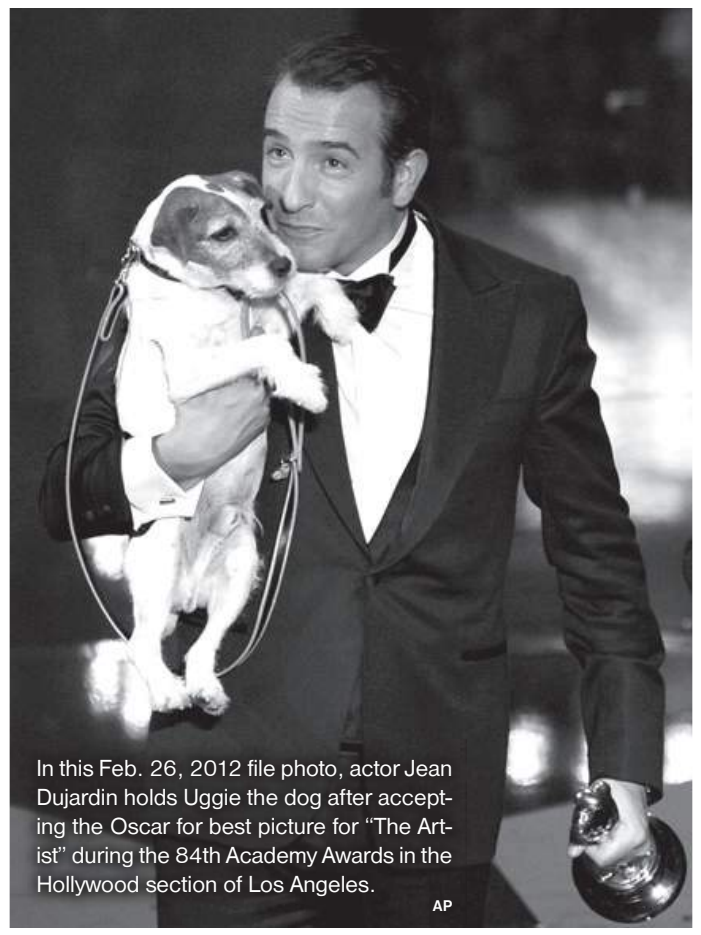
Charlize Theron of June's "Snow White and the Huntsman" revealed she "learned everything from love, watching `Splash' (1984), and that's why I'm still single," generating big laughs from the audience. "So, thanks Tom Hanks, Daryl Hannah, for that."

Tale of tails: 'Artist' star Uggie has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Every dog has its book deal.

Uggie, the Jack Russell terrier who appeared in the Oscar-winning "The Artist," has a memoir coming. Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced Friday that "Uggie: My Story" will come out in October. His tale of tails will be transcribed by biographer and presumed dog whisperer Wendy Holden.

Uggie's other films include "The Descendants" and "Water for Elephants" so look for the inside doggie dish on George Clooney, Reese Witherspoon and others.



In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, actor Jean Dujardin holds Uggie the dog after accepting the Oscar for best picture for "The Artist" during the 84th Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

AP

Consolation prize: Santorum heads to Jay Leno show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Republican Rick Santorum lost his bid to become president this year, but he's earned a trip to Jay Leno's couch.

"The Tonight Show" announced Friday that the former Pennsylvania senator will appear on Leno's Burbank stage on May 8.

It will be his first appearance on the NBC late-night program.

Santorum pulled out of the GOP primary earlier this month, clearing the way for Mitt Romney to claim victory in the battle for the nomination to challenge Democratic President Barack Obama.

Absence of table manners turns dinner into disaster

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 11-year-old niece, "Nina," has no table manners. I was surprised at her inappropriate behavior because her parents are well-educated people who were raised with good table manners.

I didn't say anything when Nina slathered clotted cream on her scone with her fingers, but I was disgusted. I did suggest she use a spoon after she scooped rice out of a communal bowl with her hand. Both of these incidents happened in restaurants.

Is there anything I can do when I must eat with this child? I know it may have been wrong of me to correct Nina in front of her mother, but we were all eating from the same bowl. Should I ignore her ignorance of basic table manners and keep my mouth shut?

LOST MY APPETITE IN HOUSTON

DEAR LOST YOUR APPETITE: By age 11, children should have mastered basic table manners. (Not eating with one's fingers is one of the basics.) Is your niece learning-disabled? If the answer is no, you should discuss this with your sibling. Nina is at an age when she needs to know what's expected of her when she's out in public.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My son came out of the closet last year. My first reaction was to tell him it was OK. (I had already suspected that he was.) I love him dearly and we're a close family. His brothers and sisters also accept and love him.

My husband and I are now struggling because we're not sure how God really views gays and lesbians. To listen to some religious people, my son will go to hell. I can't believe that God would create a person to be this way, then turn His back on him.

I tried reading the Bible, but the wording was hard to understand. I don't want to talk to my pastor about it because, even though I have accepted my son for who he is, I still have trouble talking to people about it because I'm not sure how they'll react. Do you believe a gay person will go to heaven?

SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR SOMEWHERE: I believe that entrance to heaven is based upon a person's character, not his or her sexual orientation. Today, because of modern scientific studies, we know more about homosexuality than was known when the Bible was written, and that sexual orientation is not a "choice."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter keeps hinting that we should give her money for her in vitro fertilization. We have concerns based on many issues, but the bottom line is we're not sure if she can handle motherhood.

Our daughter's marriage is shaky, and she struggles with many of her relationships and commitments in life. She is basically disabled by anxiety. Not only do we believe we should stay out of this, but we also think they can afford the procedure themselves. We would be happy for them if they had a child, but we prefer to avoid the money connection. What do you think?

UNDECIDED IN MISSOURI

DEAR UNDECIDED: If you give your daughter money, it would be better spent on counseling and medication to help her overcome her anxiety disorder. A baby will not fix a shaky marriage, and could very well complicate it. Because your daughter and her husband can afford to pay for it themselves, they should not be hitting you up to fund the endeavor.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HEY MOM, CAN I GET SOME PLASTIC SURGERY? ALL THE CELEBRITIES DO IT.
HONEY, CELEBRITIES NEED THE FAT SUCKED OUT OF THEIR BRAINS, NOT THEIR BOTTOMS. WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU WANT CHANGED? YOU'RE FINE THE WAY YOU ARE!
I WANT ANOTHER EYE PUT IN MY FOREHEAD.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

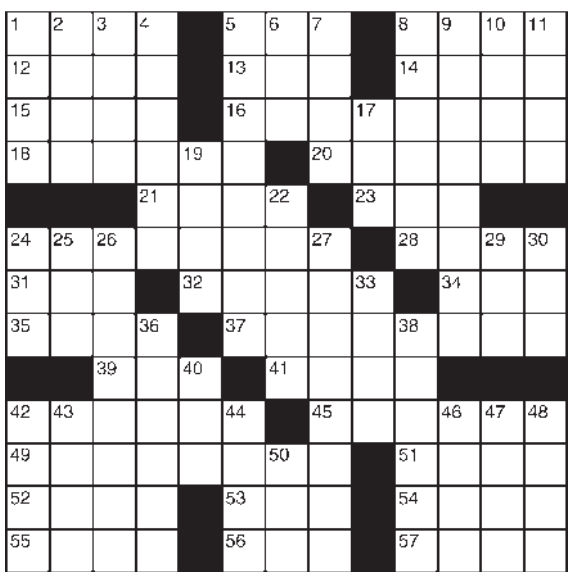
ACROSS
1 Unexciting
5 Baby bear
8 Use a cleaver
12 Franc replacer
13 — budget
14 "Mary — Little Lamb"
15 First victim
16 Long-running reality game show
18 Gobi or Mojave
20 Harsh
21 Thy
23 Mid-morning hour
24 Smith and Jones, e.g.
28 Kind
31 Eisenhower
32 Credit-card users' problems
34 With 45-Across, a martial art
35 Fender bender
37 Made an educated guess
39 Foot part
41 Layer
42 Open out, as a flag
45 See 34-Across
49 Unexpected occurrence
51 Night light?
52 Sheltered, at sea
53 In favor of
54 Satan's forte
55 Run away
56 Type measures
57 Say it isn't so

DOWN
1 Out of play
2 Cartoonist Goldberg
3 War god
4 One of Henry's Annes
5 Halloween outfits
6 Big name in Burma's history
7 Taverns
8 Sour cream and —
9 Poorer folks
10 Smell
11 Rid of rind
17 Ex-soldier
19 Street
22 Argue against
24 Comedian Caesar
25 Guitar's smaller cousin
26 Like the superintendent's apartment, maybe
27 Picket-sign carriers
29 "Norma —"
30 Danson or Koppel
33 Small diving duck
36 Hairpiece
38 Pressed
40 Blunder
42 Abbr. on a B-52
43 — and void
44 Biographer's subject
46 Actress Campbell
47 Slay
48 Sole
50 Male child

Solution time: 24 mins.

	W	A	L	T	Z		M	A	S	A	L	A
C	A	S	H	E	W		A	S	I	M	O	V
A	L	K	A	L	I		S	C	R	A	P	E
M	E	S	S		E	C	H	O		R	E	S
			A	M	B	O		T	A	I		
R	I	O		R	A	R	E		P	L	O	P
E	L	V	I	S	C	O	S	T	E	L	L	O
F	L	E	D		K	N	O	W		O	D	D
		R	O	W		A	T	O	M			
O	A	T		A	P	S	E		O	V	A	L
D	H	U	D	G	E		H	O	S	I	L	Y
E	E	R	I	E	R		I	N	S	O	L	E
S	A	N	E	S	T		C	O	Y	L	Y	

Saturday's answer 4-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dianna Agron, 26; Kirsten Dunst, 30; Kunal Nayyar, 31; Johnny Galecki, 37.

Happy Birthday: Look around you, be observant, monitor your pace and make your move. Get your papers in order and remove clutter from your life. Curb habits you have let take over and shake off any ill feelings you've been harboring. You must purify mentally, physically and emotionally to clear the way for success. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 20, 28, 33, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Expand your prospects by networking with people who share your interests. Travel or take on a challenge that will provide you with adventure or cultural knowledge. Social gatherings will enhance your love life. You are overdue to make positive lifestyle changes. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your family will be angry if you make changes without asking for approval. Avoid offending anyone in a position to influence your future. Excess, overvaluing your own opinion or underestimating a situation will be your downfall. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make home improvements or take care of your personal needs. Love can be enhanced, but only if you strive for equality and prepare to compromise. A regimen that will help you achieve or maintain good health should be initiated. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't misinterpret what someone is telling you or asking you to do. Limitations will prevail if you take the long route unnecessarily. Gauge your relationships carefully and revise or let go of connections that put too much pressure on you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Think before making a decision or statement that may impose on an important relationship. Get involved in activities that will challenge you mentally or physically. You will see a situation much more clearly if you step back and review. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Visit a friend or get involved in an event that is conducive to meeting new people. Putting money into your home or investing in your skills will help you create a better life. A colleague or peer is likely to mislead you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do not spend money on luxury items. You cannot buy love and should not lend or borrow money or possessions. Concentrate on making improvements that will help you establish a better position with a healthier lifestyle. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can make wise choices that will benefit you personally and professionally. A creative idea can prompt you to change, make a move or form a partnership that will allow you greater freedom to follow your dreams, hopes and wishes. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Slow the pace and consider the consequence of any move you make. Problems can be expected while traveling or dealing with people who have information you want. Strategy must be used in order to come out on top. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Deal with personal issues. Make sure the estates of elders are in order and that home and family matters are secure and assessable. Taking the initiative ahead of time will ease your stress. Don't stir up trouble by asking for help. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Problems involving friends, relatives or neighbors will spin out of control if you are too blatant about your feelings or too stubborn to compromise. Be reasonable and figure out how to please everyone while taking care of your needs. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put in extra effort to avoid criticism and complaints. Keep busy and focus on goals that will help you get ahead professionally. Personal matters are likely to aggravate you and stand in the way of your success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a giver, a doer and a competitive individual. You are ambitious.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3			2			7
	1					2		
			6	9	1	5	8	
		6						5
8	7		3		4		9	2
4						8		
	3	5	9	4	6			
		9					1	
7			8			9		

Difficulty Level ★ 4/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	3	5	1	8	2	9	7
2	9	1	6	3	7	5	4	8
5	7	8	9	2	4	1	6	3
3	1	9	7	8	5	4	2	6
4	8	6	2	9	3	7	5	1
7	2	5	4	6	1	3	8	9
9	6	7	3	4	2	8	1	5
8	3	2	1	5	9	6	7	4
1	5	4	8	7	6	9	3	2

Difficulty level ★★★★ 4/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHIMNEY SWEEPERS **Solution: 6 letters**

T	N	E	T	D	A	M	P	E	R	S	T	S	U	D
M	E	O	U	R	H	H	S	U	R	B	E	G	R	E
S	O	C	S	D	E	T	O	O	S	H	N	I	E	P
R	T	R	H	A	I	S	R	V	S	I	A	D	D	O
S	F	O	T	N	E	S	T	A	F	P	E	S	D	S
A	M	I	V	A	I	S	E	O	E	B	A	E	A	I
E	N	E	R	E	R	C	O	R	R	H	R	P	L	T
G	N	N	D	E	L	R	I	I	R	I	C	I	K	S
T	N	A	U	I	P	N	S	A	Ⓢ	T	N	P	C	U
M	R	I	M	A	S	L	E	Ⓟ	N	C	S	G	E	K
T	E	A	N	I	L	L	Ⓐ	U	N	S	L	O	H	C
U	T	S	D	A	C	Ⓒ	O	C	M	W	M	I	C	A
E	T	E	S	T	E	M	L	A	E	S	O	O	M	L
M	E	T	S	Y	S	L	I	N	I	N	G	R	K	B
H	I	S	T	O	R	I	C	R	E	E	R	A	C	E

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 4/30

Annual, Ashes, Black, Brick, Brush, Caps, Career, Check, Cleaning, Clear, Climate, Climb, Cost, Crown, Dampers, Debris, Deposits, Ducts, Dust, Fireplace, Hearth, Historic, Home, Inside, Ladder, Lining, Messy, Mortar, Mount, Pipes, Proofing, Repair, Residue, Restoring, Root, Seal, Season, Smoke, Soot, Stove, System, Technicians, Test, Trade, Vent

Last Saturday's Answer: Victorious

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipanproperties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution: Jailbreak

TRANSAMERICA (SAIPAN) CORPORATION
IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE (1)
- Must have extensive hardware store experience in a sales capacity
- Able to communicate well with customers like contractors and residential owners
- Knowledgeable in promoting hardware and construction materials
- Knowledgeable in Counterpoint POS software, Microsoft Office and being a computer literate is a plus factor
- Must have a reliable transportation to and from the workplace, have a valid driver's license
- Must be able to work through an 8-hour shift without interruption
- Must be able to lift and carry construction materials consistently
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Opening date: April 14, 2012 • Closing date: April 30, 2012

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Bulls lose Rose to torn ACL in win over 76ers

AP
Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose (1) reacts after an injury during the fourth quarter of Game 1 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs against the Philadelphia 76ers in Chicago, Saturday, April 28, 2012.

CHICAGO (AP)—Derrick Rose crumbled to the floor, clutching his left knee. His season is over and the Bulls' title hopes just might be finished, too.

Rose will miss the rest of the season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his knee late in Chicago's 103-91 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in Saturday's playoff opener, casting big cloud over a team eyeing a championship run.

He scored 23 points and was playing more like the league's reigning MVP after missing 27 games because of injuries during the regular season, but his injury-plagued season came to an end as the Bulls were wrapping up an impressive victory.

Rose crumbled to the ground after he drove the lane with about 1:20 left and the Bulls leading by 12. He was going for a layup when he came to a jump-stop and seemed to change his mind as the 76ers' Spencer Hawes and Lavoy Allen rotated over, passing off to a teammate before an awkward landing.

Team medical personnel immediately rushed out and tended to Rose for several minutes as he was writhing in pain near the baseline before helping him to the locker room. Rose was taken to the hospital, and the results of the MRI were not good.

Whether Rose should have been in the game at that point figures to be debated for a long time around Chicago. He checked back in with just under eight minutes left and the lead got as high as 20 shortly after that before the Sixers chipped away at it.

With Philadelphia making a push, coach Tom Thibodeau decided to stay with Rose.

"I don't work backward like you guys do," Thibodeau said. "The score was going the other way."

Veteran guard Richard Hamilton defended the decision, saying, "Philly was making a run. In playoff basketball, you never want to give a team confidence. ... When you have a team down, you have to try to keep them down. They made a little run so we needed guys that could put the ball in the basket."

Sixers coach Doug Collins also had Thibodeau's back.

"He knows what he's doing coaching his team," Collins said. "Thibs is my buddy. I have the ultimate respect for him. From his standpoint he wanted to finish that game for what he did. It's awful that Derrick got hurt."

Losing Rose is obviously a huge blow for a team that made the conference finals last year and captured the top overall seed for the second straight season.

He was finally performing more like the reigning MVP after being out of the lineup so often during the regular season with various injuries and mostly struggling the few times he did play late in the regular season.

Heat guard Dwyane Wade said he found out during the Miami-New York matchup later Saturday that Rose's season, and his hopes of playing in the Olympics, was over.

"I said a prayer for him and his family," Wade said. "You never want to see anyone get injured, especially a player of his caliber. Very unfortunate. You hope he does his best to rehab and gets back to being the D-Rose that everyone loves."

Rose found his touch after a slow start in this game and also contributed nine rebounds and nine assists. Hamilton added 19 points, Luol Deng scored 17 and Joakim Noah (12 points, 13 rebounds) had a double-double for Chicago.

Elton Brand led Philadelphia with 19 points. Jrue Holiday scored 16, and Thaddeus Young had 13 points. Chicago product Evan Turner scored 12 and was booed mercilessly after acknowledging he thought the Miami Heat would be a tougher first-round matchup.

Well, he might be right now that Rose is out. Then again, the Bulls grabbed home-court advantage throughout the playoffs despite a run of injuries that would have ruined most teams.

They were 18-9 without Rose during the regular season and had their projected starting five available for just 15 games. Hamilton was out much of the year because of injuries, and Deng has been dealing with a torn ligament in his left wrist.

Before Rose went down on Saturday, the Bulls simply overwhelmed the Sixers and looked like a team gearing up for another big run after losing to Miami in the conference finals last season.

"Your heart goes out to him," Kyle Korver said. "It's been a hard year. With all the work that he puts in and the kind of person he is, to see this happen stinks. It's a sad win."

Young felt for Rose, too.

"It's an unfortunate situation," he said. "You don't want to see him go down like that in the first game of the first round of the playoffs."

Rose hit just 1 of 7 shots in the first quarter but went on a tear late in the second as the Bulls took a 53-42 lead to the locker room. He then scored eight in the third and hit two 3-pointers to help Chicago stay in control, even though things did get a little heated.

That happened when Noah got fouled by Turner trying to put back Deng's miss with 4:36 left in the quarter. Hamilton started jawing with Turner. Rose and Brand got involved, too.

Fans, meanwhile, started chanting "MVP! MVP!" in a nod to the rivalry between Rose and Turner that dates to their high school days. When the dust cleared, Hamilton, Brand and Rose all got technicals, and Noah hit 1 of 2 foul shots to make it 69-55.

Hamilton added two more free throws on the next possession to boost the lead to 16. After the Sixers pulled within eight, Korver nailed a 3 to start a 12-2 run that stretched into the fourth and made it 84-66. But now, the Bulls will have to make do without Rose.

"He's had a lot of injuries this year," Thibodeau said. "It's been unfortunate. But we do have more than enough to win with. Whatever the circumstances are, we'll deal with it."

Heat 100, Knicks 67

In Miami, LeBron James scored 32 points before getting the fourth quarter off, Dwyane Wade added 19 and the Heat rode the strength of a 32-2 run to easily beat the Knicks in Game 1 of the teams' Eastern Conference first-round series.

Mario Chalmers added 11 points and nine assists for Miami, which turned 27 New York turnovers into a franchise playoff-record 38 points.

J.R. Smith scored 17 for the Knicks, who lost Iman Shumpert to a torn knee ligament and have dropped 11 straight playoff games dating back to 2001. Carmelo Anthony missed 12 of 15 shots and finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Baron Davis added 10 points for New York.

Game 2 is Monday in Miami.

Thunder 99, Mavericks 98

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 25 points and hit the game-winning jumper from the foul line with 1.5 seconds left to lift Oklahoma City Thunder over Dallas in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

Durant maneuvered to the free throw line and got off a high-arcing shot over Shawn Marion that hit off the front of the rim and then off the backboard before falling through.

The defending NBA champion Mavericks, who were out of timeouts, could not get a shot off before the buzzer.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 11 of his 25 points in the final 5 minutes and hit two free throws with 9 seconds left to put Dallas ahead.

Russell Westbrook led the Thunder with 28 points.

Magic 81, Pacers 77

In Indianapolis, Jason Richardson and Jameer Nelson scored 17 points apiece to help sixth-seeded Orlando, playing without Dwight Howard, surprise the third-seeded Pacers in Game 1 of the first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

Howard, the Magic's leading scorer and the league's top rebounder, will miss the rest of the season after having back surgery. The Magic played defense Howard would have been proud of down the stretch, overcoming a seven-point deficit by holding the Pacers scoreless for the final 4:05.

David West scored 19 points, Danny Granger added 17 and Roy Hibbert had eight points, 13 rebounds and nine blocks for the Pacers. Granger traveled with 7.5 seconds left and the Pacers trailing by three.

Game 2 is Monday in Indianapolis.

NBA BRIEFS

US government investigating NBA players' union

NEW YORK (AP)—The federal government is investigating the business practices of the NBA players' association. The union confirmed Friday it has received a subpoena for documents from the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan and says it will cooperate with the investigation. The NBPA also said in a statement that it has appointed a special committee to oversee an internal inquiry, including a financial audit. Recent reports have questioned the NBPA's finances and spending practices, largely having to do with the hiring of family members and firms that employ relatives of executive director Billy Hunter. Hunter says he will cooperate with the internal inquiry, but will not be in involved in the effort so it remains independent. The special committee, consisting of members of the NBPA executive committee and other player representatives. The special committee has retained Theodore V. Wells, Jr. and the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP to conduct the inquiry. The NBPA said in the statement it looks forward to putting the matters to rest. Carly Sullivan, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan, said: "We have no comment. We don't confirm or deny investigations."

Celtics' Allen still hoping to be playoff ready

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen is still not sure if he'll be able to play in the playoff opener against the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday. Allen has not played in two weeks because of a sore right ankle. He was shooting around before practice with the team on Saturday and said he would take part in some of the "smaller parts" of the workout. But coach Doc Rivers said Allen would not practice and he didn't think he would play in Game 1, either. The 36-year-old shooting guard said he received a cortisone shot on Wednesday. If it weren't for the playoffs, he said, he'd already be having surgery. Everyone else on the Celtics reported in healthy for the final practice before the team leaves for Atlanta.

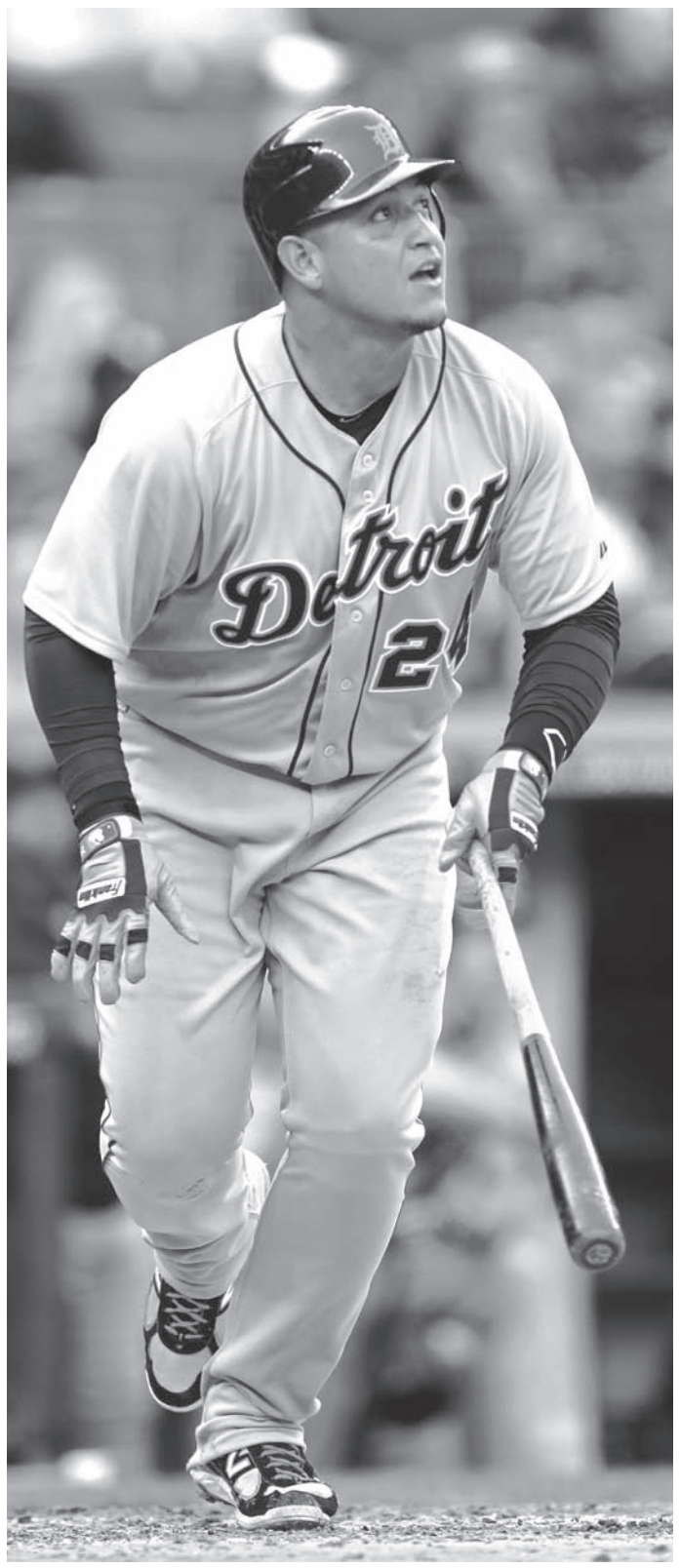
Smyly gets first big league win, Tigers top Yanks

NEW YORK (AP)—Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in three runs, and Drew Smyly pitched into the seventh inning for his first major league win to help the Detroit Tigers snap a five-game losing streak by beating the New York Yankees 7-5 Saturday.

Andy Dirks hit a three-run homer in the first off Freddy Garcia. Playing Delmon Young's usual position of left field, Dirks made a pair of nice defensive plays, too, running down balls that looked like extra-base hits off the bat.

Young was placed on the restricted list and will be evaluated under baseball's employee assistance program. He was arrested early Friday on a hate crime harassment charge following an encounter at his hotel in which police say he yelled anti-Semitic epithets and was intoxicated.

Smyly (1-0) gave up a leadoff single to Alex Rodriguez in the seventh. He allowed two hits and two walks in six-plus innings with seven strikeouts.



AP

Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera hits a solo home run off New York Yankees relief pitcher Cody Eppley during the eight inning of a baseball game on Saturday, April 28, 2012, in New York.

Rangers 7, Rays 2

In Arlington, Texas, Colby Lewis allowed one run in six innings and Josh Hamilton had a two-run single as Texas snapped Tampa Bay's six-game winning streak.

Lewis (3-0) allowed three hits and three walks to improve to 4-0 in his career against the Rays. Tampa Bay's only scoring off Lewis came on Matt Joyce's second-inning homer.

Rays starter Jeff Niemann (1-3) gave up three runs and three walks in 5 2-3 innings. The right-hander has not pitched past the sixth inning in his four starts this season.

Hamilton went 2 for 3 and now leads the AL with 24 RBIs. Adrian Beltre added a three-run home for Texas, which improved to 16-5 and equaled the best 21-game start in club history.

Red Sox 1, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Jon Lester outdueled Jake Peavy, lifting Boston over Chicago for its sixth straight win following a miserable start to the season.

Adrian Gonzalez had an RBI single in the fourth as Lester (1-2) picked up his first win. He snapped a career-worst streak of losing five straight decisions and going eight starts without a win dating to Sept. 11. He gave up five hits and one walk, striking out seven.

The Red Sox evened their record at 10-10.

Peavy (3-1) threw a complete game for a second consecutive start for the first time in his career. He gave up four hits, struck out six and retired the last 12 batters he faced.

Angels 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Dan Haren pitched eight strong innings and Albert Pujols' power drought continued as Los Angeles beat Cleveland.

Torii Hunter hit a solo homer for the Angels, who snapped a five-game losing streak. Pujols went 1 for 4 with his single during a first-inning rally giving the Angels a 1-0 lead off Jeanmar Gomez (1-1). Hunter's homer in the fourth made it 2-0.

Haren (1-1) made the lead stand up. The right-hander allowed four hits and struck out seven.

Jack Hannahan's two-out RBI single got Cleveland within 2-1 in the fourth.

Scott Downs worked a perfect ninth for his first save.

Orioles 10, Athletics 1

In Baltimore, Chen Wei-yin pitched seven strong innings, Chris Davis had four RBIs, and Adam Jones and Robert Andino each had three hits to lead Baltimore over Oakland.

Chen (2-0) allowed six hits and didn't give up a run until Jonny Gomes' one-out home run in the sixth. By then, he led 9-0. He struck out four and walked two.

The Orioles scored five runs in the second on a season-high six hits. They're 13-8 and haven't been more than five games above .500 since July 20, 2005.

Blue Jays 7, Mariners 0

In Toronto, Brandon Morrow pitched six innings and Edwin Encarnacion hit a grand slam as Toronto beat Seattle to snap a four-game losing streak.

Morrow (2-1) won his second straight start, allowing five hits with no walks and a season-high nine strikeouts.

Encarnacion went 2 for 3 with a double and a sacrifice fly, matching his career-high with five RBIs. Encarnacion hit his fourth career slam and has a team-leading six homers.

Dodgers 4, Nationals 3

In Los Angeles, Matt Kemp homered leading off the 10th inning, spoiling Bryce Harper's major league debut and lifting the Los Angeles Dodgers to a victory over the Washington Nationals.

Harper hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth before Washington's bullpen wasted a 3-1 lead in the bottom half.

Kemp drove a 1-2 pitch off Tom Gorzelanny (1-1) to center field for his majors-leading 11th home run, breaking the Dodgers record for long balls in April set by Gary Sheffield in 2000. Kemp tossed his helmet as he galloped from third to home plate, where he was mobbed by teammates.

Jamey Wright (1-0) pitched a perfect inning for the win.

Harper, the Nationals' much-ballyhooed 19-year-old outfielder and the first overall pick in the 2010 draft, was 1 for 3 in his four plate appearances.

Phillies 5, Cubs 2

In Phildelphia, Carlos Ruiz homered and drove in three runs, and Joe Blanton threw 7 1-3 sharp innings to lead Philadelphia over Chicago.

Jimmy Rollins, in the leadoff spot for the first time this season, added a two-run double for the Phillies, the five-time defending NL East champions who are off to a 10-11 start.

Blanton (2-3) allowed two runs and eight hits, striking out eight. Chad Qualls got the last two outs in the eighth and Jonathan Papelbon finished for his seventh save in as many tries.

Marlins 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Miami, Hanley Ramirez hit a run-scoring single with two outs in the ninth inning to end Miami's losing streak at six with a win over Arizona.

Ramirez's line drive to left off reliever Brad Ziegler scored Giancarlo Stanton after he reached on a one-out infield single and advanced to second on Emilio Bonifacio's grounder to first. Ziegler (0-1) intentionally walked Jose Reyes to face Ramirez.

Steve Cishek (2-0) got the win with a perfect ninth for Miami, which got a 14-strikeout performance out of starter Anibal Sanchez.

Logan Morrison hit a leadoff homer for Miami in the eighth to tie it 2-2.

Giants 2, Padres 1

In San Francisco, Tim Lincecum pitched eight sharp innings in his longest start of the season and had an infield single with two outs in the sixth for San Francisco's first baserunner against Anthony Bass in the win over San Diego.

Brandon Belt hit a two-run double off Bass with two outs in the seventh.

Lincecum (2-2) overcame some early control problems and allowed three hits. The former two-time NL Cy Young Award winner struck out five and walked four.

Pablo Sandoval went hitless in four at-bats for the Giants, ending his 20-game hit streak.

Pirates 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Alex Presley had two hits, extending his hitting streak to 12 games, drove in two runs and also scored to help Pittsburgh beat Atlanta.

Pedro Alvarez added a run-scoring double for the Pirates and Erik Bedard (1-4) gave up only one run in five innings. The left-hander struck out nine while giving up five hits and two walks. He has not allowed more than two earned runs in any of his five starts.

Joel Hanrahan worked a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

The Pirates scored a total of two runs with Bedard on the mound in his first four starts.

Cardinals 7, Brewers 3

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina went 4 for 4 with a two-run homer, and Kyle Lohse allowed three runs over six innings to run his record to 4-0 as St. Louis beat Milwaukee.

Molina's home run to left field with one out in the sixth off Milwaukee starter Marco Estrada (0-1) broke a 3-3 tie. Molina has 10 four-hit games in his career, the last coming on May 22, 2011, against Kansas City.

Cardinals third baseman David Freese celebrated his 29th birthday with a solo home run and Jon Jay had three hits, including an RBI single, and a stolen base for the Cardinals.

Aramis Ramirez and Alex Gonzalez had solo home runs for the Brewers.

Mets 7, Rockies 5

At Denver, Dillon Gee shook off one tough inning in an otherwise strong outing, Lucas Duda homered and singled to drive in four runs, and New York beat Colorado.

Ruben Tejada, Daniel Murphy and David Wright each added three hits and scored five times collectively, helping the Mets bounce back from Friday night's sloppy 18-9 loss to Colorado.

Gee (2-2), on his 26th birthday, allowed four runs in seven innings. He struck out seven and walked two, keeping the Rockies in check for most of the night except for a rough patch in the fourth when Colorado scored three of its runs.

Reds 6, Astros 0

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce homered for the third consecutive game and drove in four runs to back Johnny Cueto's solid effort as Cincinnati beat Houston.

Bruce had a two-run double and Brandon Phillips added two hits for the Reds, who improved to 3-2 on a nine-game homestand.

Cueto (3-0) allowed five hits and a walk while hitting a batter and striking out just three over seven innings, but he mad enough quality pitches to keep the Astros in check.

Lucas Harrell (1-2) allowed nine hits and six runs—five earned—with one walk and one strikeout in six innings for Houston.

Jason Dufner take 2-shot lead in Zurich Classic

AP

Jason Dufner tees off on the second hole during the third round of the Zurich Classic golf tournament at TPC Louisiana in Avondale, La., Saturday, April 28, 2012.

AVONDALE, La. (AP)—Jason Dufner shot a 5-under 67 on Saturday to take a two-stroke lead over Graham DeLaet after the third round of the Zurich Classic.

Winless in 163 starts on the PGA Tour, Dufner lost playoffs last year to Mark Wilson in the Phoenix Open and Keegan Bradley in the PGA Championship for two of his three career runner-up finishes. The former Auburn star had a 17-under 199 total at TPC Louisiana.

DeLaet, from Canada, shot a 66.

Ernie Els and John Rollins were 14 under. Els shot a 68, and Rollins had a 69.

Ryan Palmer tied the course record with a 64 to join Steve Stricker and Cameron Tringale at 13 under. Tringale had a 68, and Stricker a 69.

Second-ranked Luke Donald was 12 under after a 66. He needs to finish at least solo seventh to regain the top spot from Rory McIlroy.

Defending champion Bubba Watson, playing in his first tournament since winning the Masters, was 9 under after a 65. He opened with consecutive 71s to make the cut by a stroke.

Cepeda, Taitano ahead in Tag Team 8-Ball

Patz's Pat Cepeda and Pat Taitano broke a three-way tie and surged to the top of the 19th Hole Bar Islander Tag Team 8-Ball Tournament in its fifth week.

They took a 6-2 match last April 21 from co-leaders Taylor Watanabe and John Mongami's Elaus team, while Oneshot's Ron Chisato and Ed Suzuki took a 6-0 loss from wildcard YNOT's Norman Tenorio and Rick Rengiil.

Patz now leads with 26 points followed by Elaus with 22 and Oneshot with 20. Tasi's Annie Tesiro and Ken Phillips have 15, with YNOT tied with IDC's Quinton Ngirarois and Welson Apaisang at 14. Watever's Rose Phillips and Walter Sutherland have 8 points and Shotlokker's Rodney Aldan and William Hart have 7.

YNOT has two make-up games to catch or even pass Patz. The teams face off Sunday night. Watever and Shotlokker also have a chance to move up in the standings with a make-up game apiece.

Last April 22, Tasi topped Shotlokker 6-1, while IDC downed Watever 4-2.

The teams play each other once with three best-of-three games series, every Saturday and Sunday, starting at 7:30pm. Each team member plays a singles match followed by a double pairing, with each win scored as one point. Cash prizes go to the Top 3 finishers, plus trophies for first to fifth place winner.

The 19th Hole is located in Lower Navy Hill. Coming from Garapan, it's just before the Bank of Hawaii traffic light.

In addition to billiards, they offer darts and free WiFi-internet. The 19th Hole is open from 4pm to 2am daily and features the Rock Island Band from 9pm Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The buck-a-beer promotion continues from 4pm to 6:30pm until the end of the month.

For more information, contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 788-5929. ***(PR)***

THREE-PEAT

From Page 28

hit a long jumper from the right corner off her own inbound play. Rayphand's inbound pass in front of GCA's bench was deflected by Lee and the former picked it up, dribbled toward the right baseline and pulled up for the shot.

The Lady Eagles bench thought Rayphand's basket was a triple, but the referee said she stepped on the line, leaving SIS a precarious one-point lead, 31-30, 36.3 seconds remaining on the clock.

The Lady Geckos coach Rebeckah Iseman sued for time and when the game resumed, Lee was fouled, but missed both free throws. Kristen Pangelinan won the battle for the rebound, but could not control the ball, which eventually landed on Phalai Frink's hands. Frink then fed Lee, who was cutting from the left wing and drove to the basket, but GCA's Kelsey Mueller blocked the shot.

Mueller then sprinted to their frontcourt and then spotted Crysta Cristobal in the paint, however Lee was there to deflect the ball. Lee completed the big play and passed the ball to a sprinting Zoe Jewell, who had to chase the long pass and lost it. Fortunately for SIS, Mueller stepped in the play and dove for the ball that rolled out of the sideline. The Lady Geckos were given possession in the last 4.9 seconds and Jewell wisely hugged the ball as time expired.

Joining Jewell, Lee, and Hudkins on the champion team are Ashley Chun, Olivia Zhu, Kwang Ryung Kim, Hatsuko Bearden, Nicole Arenovski, Cathy Han, Esther Joo, and Sophia Tenorio. Last year's MVP, Amber Roberts, was also on the SIS roster, but missed the finals due to a college orientation in the mainland.

With Roberts out, Hudkins stepped up early and scored six of their 10 points in the opening period. For GCA's side, Mueller and Zena Demapan joined forces and the Eagles were behind by only one after the first eight minutes of play, 9-10.

It was a seesaw battle from thereon with GCA stealing the lead at the break, 17-16, with Demapan adding six more points in the second canto.

SIS then regained the driver's seat after the third canto with Lee, Chun, and Hudkins scoring. The Lady Geckos had a lot of second, third, and even fourth chance points, as the triple tower of Jewell, Hudkins, and Chun collared several offensive rebounds. Then on offense, Hudkins lifted the ball up against her much smaller defenders and pulled up for a couple of short jumpers in the fourth period to keep SIS' distance.

SIS 31– Hudkins 18, Chun 6, Jewell 4, Frink 3.

GCA 30 – Demapan 16, Rayphand 5, Mueller 4, Cristobal 3, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-9, 16-17, 24-22, 31-30.

COMETS

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in the first inning with Mathew Higgins bagging an RBI single.

Falcons pitcher Kekuni Kainoa settled down after a shaky start and held Ol'Aces scoreless for the next four innings.

Falcons' Ave Evangelista drove in Don Fejeran in the bottom of the second and the birds brought around four gifted runs in the fifth frame off four walks and some extra throws around the infield. The only credited hit in the pivotal inning was an RBI single by Fejeran.

Kainoa held strong on the mound late in the game and contained Ol'Aces to just one run in its final stand. His teammates also backed him up with a nifty double play to end the game.

Winning pitcher Kainoa allowed four runs to the plate, none of them earned, off four hits and two walks with three strikeouts through all six innings.

Ol'Aces hurler Virgil Secharmidal left the mound with a 3-1 lead upon exceeding his pitch count with one out in the fifth inning; he also batted 2-for-3 with two runs.

Rays 5, Twins 1

Rays leadoff man Kody Omengkar drew a leadoff walk and scored off a wild pitch and teammate and Manuel Celis reached on a single and later stole home to give their team an early 2-0 edge.

The early runs turned out to be huge as this match quickly turned into a pitching duel between Rays' Nathaniel Torres and Twins' Richard Atalig.

The Twins were held in check for three innings, but Randy Tudela was issued a free pass to the plate as Torres ran into some trouble in the top half of the fourth.

Rays' Nnes Siech came to the mound with bases loaded to close the final out of the frame. He walked in the run, but recovered quickly and went on to finish the game in convincing fashion.

His teammates picked him up later in the game after Twins' Atalig exceeded his pitch count with two outs in the fifth inning. Rays' Omengkar scored off another wild pitch and Celis tripled in Jay Kalen and came around to score off an overthrow to third base. The Twins came up empty in the final stand.

The Rays managed four hits in the game compared to the Twins' three. Rays' Celis batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs.

Comets 11, IT&E 0

Comets were in true form and made light work of IT&E in four innings.

Comets broke the ice in the first inning as Aurel Mendiola hustled his way on and around after leading off the game with a strikeout.

Teammate Kody Rabauliman doubled in Austin Indalecio and stole the plate to give their starting pitcher Erik Cruz a 3-0 cushion.

Comets then added a handful of runs off four hits in the third inning to put the match out of reach.

Cruz busted an RBI double and scored off a wild pitch, while teammates Austin Hocog and Norman Villagomez set the table for a three-run homerun by Mendiola.

Comets went on to add the needed for the early decision as Cruz dealt from the mound.

Cruz pitched a one-hit shutout in four innings with a walk and 12 strikeouts.

Mendiola batted 2-for-3 with three RBIs, another run, and two stolen bases. Ethan Babauta went 2-for-2 with two runs, a base on balls, and a stolen base. Hocog swung 2-for-2 with a run, a base on ball, and a stolen base.

Enforcers 7, Little Legals 5

Enforcers worked out an early 3-0 lead in the opening frame primarily from a pair of doubles by Joaquin Saralu and an RBI by Travis Camacho.

Little Legals' Quinton Deleon Guerrero got a run back off a wild pitch and the count became locked at 4-all after the fourth inning.

The Legals mustered three runs in the top half off an RBI double by Pedro Maratita and a pair of walks with the bases loaded, but Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar singled and scored off an error in the to close the frame.

Legals' Deleon Guerrero bashed a one-out single and scored off a passed ball in the fifth, but the Enforcers went ahead, 7-5, with three runs in the bottom frame off four hits. Kier Agda bagged an RBI single and the Legals went 1-2-3 in the final stand.

Enforcers' Saralu swung 2-for-3 with two runs.

MANTA

From Page 28

their first loss in four games.

In other results, KHS carried Tuesday's strong performance over into Friday's second pairing and whipped up a 4-1 victory over the Marianas High School Dolphins (2-3-0), while SIS routed winless Northern Marianas Academy-Marianas Baptist Academy (0-4-0), 7-1, at Hopwood last Monday.

The season continues at the Hopwood field today at 4:30pm with MHS Dolphins looking to even its card as they take on the SIS Geckos.

SSHS 3, SIS 1

SSHS' Jake Lee netted two quick strikes in the 11th and 15th minutes of the first half for a promising lead. However, SIS' Seoung Joon Lee kicked a late shot between the goal posts in the 34th minute of the half to keep the Geckos within range.

Both teams tightened up on defense in the second half, but SSHS' Scott Kim managed to add an insurance goal that helped secure the win.

KHS 4, MHS 1

Both teams were feeling each other out in the first half, but KHS' Jack Tanapon worked his way through traffic late in the opening period for an icebreaker in the last minute of the half to give the Ayuys a 1-0 lead.

He did it again just five minutes into the second half and teammate Frank Mettao powered in a deflection at the net for a nice rebound goal in the 44th minute of the match for a commanding 3-0 lead.

MHS' John Taisacan broke free for a quick-hit goal after the ensuing kickoff to put MHS on the board in the 47th minute, but Tanapon answered his call in similar fashion at the 50-minute mark, while teammate Antonio Bornia put the cherry on top with five minutes left in regulation.

SIS 7, NMA-MBA 1

SIS took a commanding 3-0 lead after the opening half and never looked back.

Clay McCullough-Stearns broke loose at the kickoff for a buzz kill goal in the very first minute of action. He fired another strike in the 13th minute, while teammate Jhen Joyner chimed in for a goal in the 26th minute of the first canto.

NMA-MBA managed its lone goal from Min Sung Kim in the second half, however SIS piled on four more goals in garbage time.

Andrew Johnson found the back of the net just over 10 minutes into the second half and McCullough-Stearns went on to snag a hat trick before Joyner signed off with a second goal.

CNMI

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"A" and "B" teams.

So, in addition to facing what obviously was the region's best team, the CNMI also tried to accustom its mixed team to a new format on the fly.

From the get-go, the CNMI was unable to get their offense going and had trouble containing Japan's rapid-fire offensive attacks.

Japan's passing is unequaled by any team in this tournament and their shooting and speed are also second to none as shown by their previous games against Mongolia, 9-0 (in a 30-minute game) and Chinese Taipei, 6-0 (also in a 30-minute game).

While the CNMI was beaten 18-0 by a far more superior Japanese team, to its credit and despite the lopsided score, the Commonwealth players continued to play 100 percent throughout the match.

The CNMI also played against South Korea and Guam last Wednesday and only lost by a combined four points. The team took on Mongolia and North Korea late yesterday, but results were still not available as of press time.

Coaches game

As a treat participating teams and fans of the Football Festival were treated to a "Coaches Game" wherein the coaches from South Korea, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, and the Japanese head coach faced off against the CNMI, China, Guam, Mongolia, and Macau mentors.

Ramsey said although some of the coaches may be a few years out from their professional careers it didn't show.

"Their skills were spot on giving the younger players something to aim for in the future. The players on the sidelines watching the game took the opportunity to give some grief to their coaches on the field such as, 'Don't dive,' 'C'mon coach, give 100 percent,' and 'Follow your mark,'" said the team official.

Last Friday, the CNMI U14 National Team had its day off and instead took part in a skills fair in the morning.

Every player on all 10 international teams participated in the skills fair. There were four stations set up testing various combinations of dribbling and shooting.

According to Ramsey, one station had the players making a short pass to a reflecting wall, regain control before making a turn and then shoot at the opposite wall.

A score was given by how many kicks you could get in a specified amount of time. Another had them dribbling around cones and shooting a goal from a normal distance. A more difficult test had the boys bouncing the ball on their knee and foot then making an accurate shot through cones. The most difficult test was the target that was set 10 meters away where the ball had to land inside in order to get any points

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	13	8	.619	–
Tampa Bay	13	8	.619	–
New York	11	9	.550	1 1/2
Toronto	11	10	.524	2
Boston	10	10	.500	2 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	10	9	.526	–
Detroit	11	10	.524	–
Chicago	10	11	.476	1
Kansas City	6	14	.300	4 1/2
Minnesota	5	15	.250	5 1/2

West Division

Texas	16	5	.762	–
Oakland	11	11	.500	5 1/2
Seattle	11	11	.500	5 1/2
Los Angeles	7	14	.333	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	14	7	.667	–
Atlanta	13	8	.619	1
New York	12	9	.571	2
Philadelphia	10	11	.476	4
Miami	8	12	.400	5 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	14	7	.667	–
Cincinnati	10	11	.476	4
Pittsburgh	9	11	.450	4 1/2
Milwaukee	9	12	.429	5
Houston	8	13	.381	6
Chicago	7	14	.333	7

West Division

Los Angeles	15	6	.714	–
San Francisco	11	10	.524	4
Colorado	10	10	.500	4 1/2
Arizona	10	11	.476	5
San Diego	7	15	.318	8 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

CNMI youth strikers making waves in Beijing

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It's been a memorable tournament so far for the CNMI U14 National Team currently seeing action in the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia in Beijing, China.

Last Wednesday, the Commonwealth strikers pulled off a 2-0 victory against Chinese-Taipei during their second game in Day 1 of the four-day competition.

Then on Thursday, the CNMI U14 Team prevailed over Macau, 1-0, and led the favored host China before settling for a draw, 1-1, in the later match.

Aside from Chinese-Taipei, Macau, and China, the CNMI also dueled South Korea and Guam in Day 1 of the youth tournament and although the Commonwealth players failed to win, they held their ground on defense, allowing their foes to score only two goals each.

In other top sports news last week, Blue Haus won the championship of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship/Miller Lite League after outlasting QQ Rent A Car, 76-69, at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

It was the second straight DLX caging title for Blue Haus, which was led by Badong Camacho's 21 points en route to winning finals MVP honors.

QQ Rent A Car's Elgene Mangali, meanwhile, was adjudged regular season MVP after norming 17.4 points in the elimination round where his team finished at the No. 5 spot.

Trench Tech Purebred's Mark "The Dark" Nuique, meanwhile, won Trench Tech's bantamweight title in Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable held last April 20 at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Nuique stopped Duenas (4-1) at 1:40 into the first round with a rear-naked choke submission, to win the coveted championship in the 135-lb division and stretching the former's win streak to eight.

Games in the Saipan Little League, Saipan Major League, NMIFA men's and women's and boys and girls, MISO softball, and COPSSA basketball as well as an SCA MTB & Road Race 3 competition were also held last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's starting 11 against Chinese-Taipei pose for a group photo before their second game in the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia in Beijing, China, last Wednesday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's James Libut pulls up for a jumper against two Marianas Baptist Academy defenders during their semis game in the varsity division of the COPSA caging last week at the GCA basketball court on Navy Hill.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DLX caging Finals MVP Badong Camacho of Blue Haus gets the rebound away from QQ Rent A Car's Arthur Montes in their one-game championship last April 21.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus players celebrate their title win with organizers of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship/Miller Lite League last April 21 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Butch Sublemente heads to the finish line of last April 22's SCA MBT & Road Race 3.

◄ Trench Tech Purebred's Mark "The Dark" Nuique is fitted with the Trench Tech bantamweight championship belt by Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez after beating Zalaka's Joe Duenas in Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable last April 21 at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Ballroom.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Bulls lose Rose to torn ACL in win over 76ers

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Smyly gets first big league win, Tigers top Yanks

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Three-peat for SIS Lady Geckos

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School players and their coach Rebeckah Iseman, standing center, flash the No. 3 sign after beating Grace Christian Academy in the finals, 31-30, and completing a three-peat in the COPSSA girls varsity caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School extended its reign in the girls varsity division of the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League after escaping with a thrilling 31-30 win over Grace Christian Academy in last Friday's winner-take-all finals at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

The championship was third in a row for the Lady Geckos, who leaned on Amy Hudkins' 18 points and a last-second defensive stop from point guard Seoung Hyun Lee to slip past the Lady Eagles in a closely fought finale.

Hudkins made six of her 18 total points in the fourth quarter where SIS tasted its biggest lead, 28-22, after holding GCA scoreless in the first three minutes of the payoff canto. Hudkins used her height advantage to hit short jumpers and give the Lady Geckos the momentum in the final canto after taking a slim 24-24 lead after the third period.

The Lady Eagles then slowly worked their way back into the game and could have overtaken SIS if not for several misses from the free throw area. The Lady Eagles were awarded 10 charities in the fourth, but nailed only four with Leona Pangelinan hitting the last one to move GCA within three, 28-31, 1:34 left on the clock.

Teams traded misses in the ensuing play before Jazmin Rayphand

See THREE-PEAT on Page 26

CNMI bows to powerhouse Japan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI U14 National Team crashed back to terra firma Saturday morning after powerhouse Japan gave it a virtual soccer clinic, beating them, 18-0, in the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia in Beijing China.

After inspiring wins against Chinese-Taipei (2-0) and Macau (1-0) plus a draw against host China (1-1), the CNMI got a healthy dose of reality in Day 4 of the competition against what arguably is the cream of the crop of the AFC.

Team secretary/doctor Gary Ramsey said there's no shame in losing to Japan, which national recruiting system is the model used by all of Asia.

"They're able to take the best players from each prefecture and combine them to form a very talented team. And the CNMI was witness to this successful system," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Also working against the CNMI was the new format consisting of two 30-minute periods that forced the islanders' coaches to combine the

See CNMI on Page 26

JOE AUTHER

The CNMI U14 National Team in action against powerhouse Japan in last Saturday's AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia held in Beijing China.

Manta Rays remain team to beat in boys soccer

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Defending champion Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays solidified its first place ranking with a 3-1 victory over second place Saipan International School Geckos in the first match of Friday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys soccer doubleheader held at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The win followed SSHS' draw with Kagman High School Ayuyus (2 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw) last Tuesday at the Hopwood Junior School Field. The Manta Rays now hold a stout record of four wins with a lone draw while issuing the Geckos

See MANTA on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Kagman High School's Antonio Bornia, right, tries to turn the corner on a Marianas High School defender at midfield during Friday's MISO boys soccer match held at the Oleai Sports Complex.

MAJOR DIVISION

Comets, Enforcers, Rays, Falcons advance to semis

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Pennant champion Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero-Dandan Comets, the DPS Dare Program-Enforcers, the Pacific Amusement-Rays, and the Natibu Sports Association-Talaabwogh Falcons advanced to the post season of the 2012 Saipan Little League's Majors Division after the conclusion of the opening playoff round held over the weekend at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Comets shut out IT&E, 11-0, and the Enforcers survived the Attorney Robert T. Torres-Kagman Little Legals, 7-5, on Saturday, while last Sunday the Falcons snuck past the IT&E Ol'Aces, 5-4, and the Rays slammed the door on As Matuis Twins, 5-1.

The Enforcers are set to face the Falcons at 9am on Saturday followed by the Comets against the Rays at noon. Then Saturday's winners will each vie for the championship scheduled for 1pm on Sunday preceded by the 9am consolation match.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Rays shortstop Jay Kalen fields the ball and looks toward his next move at third base during Sunday's Major Division playoff game against the As Matuis Twins at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Falcons 5, Ol'Aces 4

Ol'Aces started strong with an early 3-0 advantage off two hits

See COMETS on Page 26